

THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 881.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1844.

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(Stamped Edition, 5d.)

For the convenience of Subscribers residing in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines.—Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than Three Months, and in advance, are received by M. BAYARD, 3, Quai Malakau, Paris, or at the Publishing Office, 14, Wellington-street North, Strand, London. For France, and other Countries not requiring the postage to be paid in London, 28fr. or 12. 2s. the year. To other Countries, the postage in addition. [JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.]

KING'S COLLEGE, London.—GENERAL INSTRUCTION IN THE APPLIED SCIENCES.—The CLASSES in this Department (the object of which is to provide a thoroughly practical education for those who are afterwards to be engaged in the business pursuits of active life.) will OPEN on TUESDAY, the 1st of OCTOBER next. This Department provides also (in addition to the general course) a complete system of Elementary Instruction in Engineering and Architecture. Detailed information may be obtained of the Secretary, R. W. JELF, D.D. Principal, July 31, 1844.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, London.—FACULTY OF ARTS AND LAWS. Session 1844-45.—The SESSION will COMMENCE on TUESDAY, October 15, when Professor Malden will deliver an INTRODUCTORY LECTURE at Two o'clock precisely.

CLASSES.
LATIN.—Professor Long, A.M.
GREEK.—Professor Malden, A.M.
HEBREW.—A Professor will be appointed before the opening of the Session.
ORIENTAL LANGUAGES.—Professor Falconer, A.M.
SPANISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Professor Latham, A.M.
FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Professor Merlet.
ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.—Professor Popoli.
SPANISH LANGUAGE.—Teacher, Mr. Gil de Tejada.
GERMAN LANGUAGE.—Teacher, Mr. Wittich.
COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.—W. H. Brown, M.D., F.L.S.
MATHEMATICS.—Professor De Morgan.
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY AND ASTRONOMY.—Professor Potter, A.M.
CHEMISTRY.—Professor Graham.
ARCHITECTURE.—Professor Donaldson.
GEOLOGY.—Professor Webster, F.G.S.
MINERALOGY.—Professor De la Beche, F.G.S.
BOTANY.—Professor Lindley, Ph.D.
ZOOLOGY, RECENT AND FOSSIL.—Professor Grant, M.D.
PHILOSOPHY OF MIND AND LOGIC.—Professor the Rev. J. Heges, Ph.D.
ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY.—Professor Creasy, A.M.
LAW.—Professor Carey, A.M.
UNIVERSITY.—Professor Harcourt, B.L.
Residence of Students.—Several of the Professors and some of the Masters of the Junior School, receive Students to reside with them; and in the Office of the College there is kept a register of parties unconnected with the College who receive boarders into their families—among these are several medical practitioners. The register will contain references as to respectability, terms, and other particulars.

FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIPS.
Flaherty Scholarships of £50 per annum will be awarded in the Session 1844-45, by Examiners to be appointed by the Council, to the best proficient among the Students of the College of two years' standing, under the age of twenty-one years, as follows:—A Scholarship, tenable for four years, in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and an Extraordinary Scholarship, tenable for three years, in Classics. The examination will take place between the 7th and 15th of January. A Scholarship will be awarded in January, 1845, for Classics, and in January, 1847, for Mathematics. Printed copies of the regulations concerning these Scholarships may be had on application at the Office. Spectacles and further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the College.
S. CAREY, Dean of the Faculty.
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.
September, 1844.
The Session of the Faculty of Medicine commences on the 1st of October. The Junior School opens on the 24th September.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, London.—Junior School.—Under the Government of the Council of the College.

SCHOOL-MASTER—THOMAS HEWITT KEY, A.M.
The School will OPEN on Tuesday, the 24th September. The session divides into three terms, viz. from 24th September to Christmas, from Christmas to Easter, and from Easter to the 1st August.
The yearly payment for each pupil is 15s., of which 5s. are paid in advance in each term. The hours of attendance are from a quarter-past 9 to three-quarters-past 3. The afternoons of Wednesday and Saturday are devoted exclusively to drawing. The subjects taught are Reading, Writing, the English, Latin, Greek, French, and German languages, Ancient and Modern History, Geography both physical and political, Arithmetic and Book-keeping, the elements of Mathematics and of Natural Philosophy, and Drawing.
Any Pupil may omit Greek, or Greek and Latin, and devote his whole attention to the other branches of education. There is a general examination of the Pupils at the end of the session, and the prizes are then given.
The discipline of the school is maintained without corporal punishment.
A monthly report of the conduct of each pupil is sent to his parent or guardian.
Several of the masters receive boarders.
Further particulars may be obtained at the office of the College.
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.
The College Lectures of the Faculty of Medicine commence on the 1st October; those of the Faculty of Arts on the 15th October.
August 27, 1844.

TO FAMILIES AND BOOK SOCIETIES.
CHURTON'S LIBRARY, 26, HOLLES-STREET, CANNENDISH-SQUARE, offers the following peculiar advantages to Subscribers:—
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ALDERSGATE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—The WINTER SESSION will commence OCTOBER 1, at half-past 2, with an INTRODUCTORY LECTURE by Mr. Alfred Smee, 'On the Relation of Man to the External World.' PHYSIOLOGY and ANATOMY.—S. J. Goodfellow, M.D., London, and Carsten Holtzner, F.R.C.S.G., and Edward J. Chance, F.L.S., F.G.S.
MEDICINE.—C. J. B. Aids, M.D., Cantab., and Klein Grant, M.D.
SURGERY.—Alfred Smee, F.G.S.
MIDWIFERY.—Robert Drutt, Esq.
MATERIA MEDICA.—A. R. Garrod, M.D., London.
CHEMISTRY.—George H. Makins, Esq.
BOTANY.—W. H. Brown, M.D., F.L.S.
FORENSIC MEDICINE.—G. R. Sewall, M.D., London.
COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.—W. H. Brown, M.D., F.L.S.
The practice of the Lecturers at the several Public Institutions to which the year attached, is open free to the Students; and some of the Lecturers receive Pupils at their own houses. General fee for the Lectures required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Apothecaries' Hall, 3s. guineas, exclusive of Practical Chemistry.
R. I. LONGBOTTOM, Secretary.

SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, London.—under the direction of JOHN RYAN, L.L.D., M.D., and Prof. BACHHOFFNER, Ph.D., M.A.—The Course of CHEMICAL LECTURES and Practical Demonstrations for Medical and Scientific Students, Agricultural Chemists, and others, by Dr. JOHN RYAN, will commence on the 7th of October, at 12 o'clock A.M.; and will be continued on each alternate day. The STEAM NAVIGATION Class, for NAVAL OFFICERS, will commence on the 15th of October, at 2 o'clock A.M. The Class for RAILWAY ENGINE DRIVERS will open on Tuesday Evening, the 8th of October, at 8 o'clock P.M. The Class on NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, under the direction of Prof. BACHHOFFNER, will commence on the 7th of October, illustrated by the extensive Apparatus of the Institution. A Syllabus of the various Classes may be had at the Institution.

SCHOOL, FAMILY, and CLERICAL AGENCY, 30, SOHO-SQUARE.—Mr. HINTON, late of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Author of 'Stenography for Schools, &c.', respectfully states that he forwards the views of Principals of Schools, Families, Clergymen, Tutors, and Assistants, to any changes they may contemplate; also in the transfer of Scholastic and Clerical Property.—Mr. Hinton, who has resided many years on the Continent, can introduce superior English and Foreign Governesses, with good references. Letters, the only expense to Principals, must be free.

HIGH SCHOOL OF EDINBURGH.
THE HIGH SCHOOL will RE-ASSEMBLE on TUESDAY, the 1st of OCTOBER, on which day WILLIAM PYPPE, A.M. will OPEN the FIRST or ELEMENTARY LATIN CLASS.
The Course of Study embraces the English, Latin, Greek, and French Languages; History and Geography, Ancient and Modern; Elementary Science; Writing, Book-keeping, Arithmetic, Mathematics, Fencing and Gymnastics.
On and after Friday, the 7th instant, attendance will be given at the High School for the purpose of issuing Matriculation Tickets.
Further particulars may be obtained by application at the School.
City Chambers, Edinburgh, 6th Sept. 1844.

BONN, ON THE RHINE.
No. 51, VOR DEM COBLENTZ-THOR, BONN.
Sept. 1844.

AN ENGLISH GRADUATE, of the University of Göttingen, being about to remove with his family to Bonn, at Michaelmas (1844), wishes to receive a few Young Gentlemen into his house, for the purpose of instructing them in the Greek, Latin, and French languages, Mathematics, History, and the usual branches of an English Education, and of affording them peculiar advantages for the attainment of a thorough knowledge of the German Language and Literature. Bonn, which is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the most beautiful parts of the Rhine, is well known as the seat of a flourishing Prussian University, and as the residence of some of the most celebrated Oriental Scholars of Europe, from whom Gentlemen preparing for Military or Civil service in India, may derive the most valuable assistance.
The Advertiser has testimonials from the late Ottfried Müller, Heeren, and other distinguished Professors of the University of Göttingen, under whom he studied.
The Railway is now open the whole distance between Ostend and Bonn.
The Advertiser has still TWO VACANCIES in the number which he wishes to take with him at Michaelmas.
For further particulars apply to W. C. P., No. 12, Mont le Grand, Exeter.

TO LIBRARIANS AND OTHERS.—WANTED
for a Country Library, COMPLETE SETS OF TRAVELS, ROMANCES, NOVELS, &c., need not be of the present day. Any person having the same to dispose of cheap, may hear of a purchaser, by post-paid letter, stating particulars, to J. K. L., Bookseller, Post Office, Windsor, till called for.

MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP.—WANTED,
by a Member of the College and Hall, to PURCHASE a SHARE or the WHOLE of an ESTABLISHED PRACTICE. The Advertiser is 30 years of age, and has acquired his knowledge of the profession at a provincial hospital, as well as those of London and Paris, and in private practice.—Apply personally, or by letter (prepaid), addressed to F. G., Mr. Blandford's, Chemist, 37, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square.

HYDROPATHY.—As many Members of the Medical Profession have now adopted themselves of the value of Hydropathy, it is no longer expedient that a private individual should seek to vindicate its cause; Mr. Richard Beamish is, therefore, willing to resign his position at Prestbury, with his establishment at Field House, and all Hydrophobic applications, upon very moderate terms. The great purity of the water (which in two quarts contains only six grains of extraneous matter), and the uniform temperature of it, together with dry soil, render the locality equal if not superior to any in England. Applications will be received by Richard Beamish, Esq., Sans Souci, Prestbury, Cheltenham.

THE HEPTAPLÉMION FINE ART DISTRIBUTION.
MRS. PARKES begs to inform the Public that, by the advice of her Friends, and for the satisfaction of the Subscribers, she has fully authorized a COMMITTEE of GENTLEMEN to act for her in the General Management of her present Scheme. The Public will be assured thereby of its being carried to a successful termination on THE 30th INSTANT.

At a Meeting of the said Committee, held at 22, Golden-square, this day, WILLIAM UPCOTT, Esq. in the Chair, it was resolved to publish the following Address:—
The COMMITTEE of the HEPTAPLÉMION LOTTERY for the management of MRS. PARKES'S Grand Scheme hereby give notice, that they have consented to act for her interest, and as a guarantee to the Public for its due fulfilment, according to the Prospectus as before published.
They therefore earnestly request all persons intending to subscribe to take Tickets immediately of her Agents, or at 22, Golden-square, where these celebrated Prizes of the LOWER GALLERY are to be seen daily, and where Descriptive Catalogues and Prospectuses are to be obtained.

The Committee particularly recommend the Subscribers to DEFER their selection of Engravings, to which the Tickets entitle them, until after the Drawing, for the purpose of being enabled to choose from a LARGER NUMBER of FINELY-EXECUTED PLATES than those already announced in the Prospectus.
The Lottery must be Drawn on the 30th INSTANT, as that is the last day allowed by Act of Parliament for the drawing of the Lottery.
(Signed) EDWARD PAGE, Secretary.
September 11, 1844.

AMERICAN ADVERTISEMENT AGENCY.
A. S. DEACON, Provincial and General Advertiser, Esq. in the Chair, informs the public he has appointed a respectable and experienced Agent for the insertion of Advertisements in any Newspaper published in the United States and Canada. Copies procured containing the same.

LONDON GAZETTE FOR SALE.—A perfect Copy of the LONDON GAZETTE, from No. 1, in 1665, to No. 10574, in 1837, bound with Index, and in excellent condition, the only perfect copy in existence, copies apply to Mr. Deacon, County Newspaper and General Advertising Agent, Walbrook, London.

THE FOREIGN QUARTERLY REVIEW.
No. 67, will be published on the 30th instant. ADVERTISEMENTS, for insertion, are requested to be forwarded to the Publishers by the 15th of the month.
Chapman & Hall, 156, Strand.

CHAPPELL'S MUSICAL CIRCULATING LIBRARY.—Subscribers paying 3s. 3d. a year, are entitled to six books or pieces at a time in town, or eighteen in the country. Subscribers paying 1s. 2d. the year are entitled to four in town, or twelve in the country. All New Works of interest are added to the Library as soon as published, and every description of Music is supplied to Subscribers.
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The most satisfactory references can be obtained on application to Mr. John Miller, Bookseller, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW, No. 82,
is just published. Contents:—
1. Railroad Administration and Improvement.
2. Coningsby.
3. The Prize Comedy and Prize Committee.
4. Collisions at Sea.
5. Tithes.
6. Beaumarchais and Sophie Arnould.
7. Charles James Bishop of London.
8. Mazzini and the Editor of *Pellegrino*.
9. Critical and Miscellaneous Notices.
Samuel Clarke, 12, Pall Mall East.

RAILROADS.—The Public are informed that a New Edition is just issued of BETTS'S RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL MAP OF ENGLAND AND WALES. In addition to the distinguishing features which have rendered this Map perhaps the most popular of the present day, the New Edition has the various Railway Stations conspicuously shown, and the distances to each Station accurately given in miles and furlongs. The new lines which have passed the legislature are also laid down, and the whole has been executed with scrupulous accuracy. Price 2s. 6d. in cloth, 1s. 6d. in paper. London: J. Betts, 115, Strand; Simpkin & Co.; Whittaker & Co.; Hamilton & Co.; Liverpool: G. Philip.

Sales by Auction.

SOUTHGATE'S ROOMS.

By Mr. HENRY SOUTHGATE, at his Rooms, 22, Fleet-street, on WEDNESDAY, September 18, and following day,
MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION of
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 Dyck; Honthorst, P. de Laer, Brouwer, Louis de Vadder, Van
 Oort, Henskius, Brainer, &c.; The Holy Family, by Jacopo
 Palma; The Sacrifice of Ishmael, by Peranda; The Pool
 of Bethesda, by Il Calabrese; Landscapes, with Figures
 and Cattle, by Salvator Rosa, Zuccarelli, Rosa da Tivoli;
 Juvenile Peasants Quarrelling, by Murillo; Infant Christ Sleep-
 ing, by Dittor; The Begonion of the Virgin, by Inseguier;
 Tobit Anointing his Father's Eyes, by Spagnoletto; Narcissus
 at the Fountain, by La Hire; Nymphs and Satyrs, by a French
 Artist; a fine Copy, by Howard, of the celebrated Correggio in
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A curious and valuable Portrait of Michael Angelo, in Crayons,
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Particulars of the Collection of Books, the Household Furni-
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 Catalogues are preparing, and will be ready for delivery on
 the 16th instant, which, to prevent improper intrusion, will be
 charged 1s. each.

The Sale will commence with the Library, on the 23rd inst.,
 which will be followed by the Paintings, and conclude with the
 Household Furniture, Farming Stock, &c.

The whole may be viewed on Friday, the 20th, and Saturday,
 the 21st instant, and Catalogues had at the Hall; of Messrs.
 Winstanley, Paternoster-row, London; at the Offices of *Aris*
Birmingham Gazette, *Derby Mercury*, *Stafford Advertiser*, *Cheltenham*
Journal, Mr. Answe and Mr. Grandy, at Calwich-street, Man-
 chester; and of Thos. Winstanley & Sons, Liverpool.

Calwich-hall is about three miles from Ashbourne, seventeen
 from Derby, and fifteen from Leek, from which Town coaches
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Shortly will be published,
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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1844.

REVIEWS

Spain and the Spaniards in 1843. By Captain S. E. Widdrington, R.N. 2 vols. Boone.

THIS is not a work to be skipped over and forgotten, in favour of the next published holiday journal. The style, though not coloured for the market, is readable; the adventures, though not forced, have sufficient life and personality to make us follow the steps of the traveller in willing companionship. In one point of view—namely, as an architectural guide—this tour appears to have claims superior to most of its predecessors; we should indeed like to read it with the splendid and interesting 'España Artística' on the table before us. Here and there, too, we have a contribution to natural history worth attending to, as having been made by the travelling companion of our distinguished countryman, Dr. Daubeny. As to Capt. Widdrington's political lucubrations, we are glad to turn them over to the controversialists of our own or of the French daily press.

In spite of the recent revolutions and counter-revolutions—by which St. Iago de Compostella has liberally fulfilled his promise to the Peninsula, that its inhabitants should enjoy every blessing save that of quiet government.—Capt. Widdrington found Madrid essentially improved. New buildings are being run up as vivaciously as in Picnic or Paddington,—the materials largely derived from the destruction of the convents. The ordinary bustle in the streets is now equal to that of the festival days of Ferdinand. The shops are improved; and the newest French fashions and English manufactures are attainable. The inns, however, continue bad: the restaurants no less so; but the reading-rooms, instead of "the solitary Galignani, with the margin close cut," now display English and French journals, besides the forty Madrid periodicals. Omnibuses, drawn by mules, were started the very day of Capt. Widdrington's arrival. The houses are now numbered. More carriages are to be seen on the promenades than formerly; a horse-race was got up under the patronage of that high-bred *magnifico*, the Duke of Ossuna, but with indifferent success. Many pages are devoted to the picture galleries and the palaces: from these we will select two, for the sake of the portrait they contain:—

"One of the greatest curiosities in this palace was undoubtedly the Countess of Mina, who was aya or governess to the Queen, and charged with the principal superintendence of her education. The seeing the simple and unpretending daughter of a merchant installed in the office of preceptress to the representative of the proud race of Spanish Bourbons would have been probably a legitimate excuse for seeking an introduction to her; but I should have hardly broken in upon the scanty leisure afforded to her very serious occupations, without some previous claim to do so. I had made the acquaintance of her husband and herself when he was living in a small house at Plymouth, an exile from the country he had served better than perhaps any cotemporary, suffering from the wounds he had received in making the only real resistance offered to the iniquitous invasion of 1823, of which he never entirely recovered, and finally died in the flower of his age. I found the Countess much improved in health and appearance since that time, when the sufferings and ill-usage of her husband had deeply marked her countenance. Her stature is rather below the middle size and her person stout, with an abundance of the blackest hair simply dressed; eyes very large, dark and fuller than usual even in this classic land of them, and beaming with intelligence. Her forehead and lower part of the face are remarkable for their development, and an admirable study for the phrenologists, who would pronounce them models as indicating firmness of character. Her constant costume is the deepest

black, which completely covers her person, and when she accepted the appointment it was stipulated that she should never be required to lay it aside. The only ornament she wore was a simple but rather massy gold chain and cross, which had a singularly good effect in relieving the mass of deep black; and her manner, noble and serious, bordering on the severe at first sight, made her the beau ideal of a lady abbess."

After a satisfactory sojourn at Madrid, the Captain and Dr. Daubeny made preparations for their progress into Estramadura. They left the capital by diligence for Badajoz, three days being required to reach Truxillo: though the travelling was wretched, and the country dreary, as of old, there were signs of improvement in the agriculture. Talavera looked "poor, decayed, and miserable"; and of Godoyville, a town projected by the Prince of Peace, but ruins remain, not a roof having been laid on. After a rough journey, the clean posada at Truxillo was doubly welcome. The talk of the inn, touching the "coach travelling," is worth adding, as illustrating the state of provincial intercourse in Spain:—

"We had arrived without accident, which was more than could reasonably be expected from the state of the vehicle. They told me that every journey to Madrid cost an extensive refit to the carriages, which had ample need of it, but we were even fortunate in having the advantage of it, as the enterprise was not long expected to survive. The diligence travels once a week, and the mensageria or quick galera with the same tiro once also, at a cheaper rate, but in the same time. When this diligence was first started there were branches from Badajoz to Seville and Lisbon, but Don Miguel and the civil war had put a stop to both these, and the main line was expected to follow. They told me that during the whole time the communication with Lisbon was open, none but messengers and others on business and foreigners were ever seen in it, and scarcely a single person of the upper ranks there had ever passed to see the Spanish capital!"

Truxillo seems well provided with architectural "lions." The church of St. Domingo makes a beautiful ruin. The Roman fortress, an interesting though a ruder pile, is in better preservation. San Martino is remarkable for its groined roof, and contains some curious sculptured tombs. But Truxillo is dwindling fast, having only a population of four thousand souls, while it is capable of housing ten times the number. The inhabitants, however, have not lost the grave and polished *caballero* manner of old Spain, nor the purity of the language.

Logrosan, the next station, near which Dr. Daubeny found the phosphorite which was the object of his pilgrimage, is an unattractive place. Seven leagues thence lies Guadalupe, with a noble church, which, however, is still unfinished. Attached to it is a spacious sacristy, containing some of Zurbaran's best pictures, which, it is to be hoped, are ere this in the collection at Madrid. Behind the convent, to which the church was but an appendage, is a *patio* (cloister) in the Moorish style, once laid out with a garden, and where some persevering orange trees still flourish. What a contrast its present neglected state, from the days when it belonged to one of the most splendid establishments in Spain! It had been "successively endowed with various property to such an extent that the funds, in arable lands, forests, pastures, flocks of sheep, bullocks, and other stock and houses, including the plate, alhajas and other personal property, were valued at about a million sterling!" * * * The flocks were so numerous that even Prince Esterhazy might allow them the rank as Shepherd Princes, which he denied to Lord Leicester. Fifty years since, according to the Spanish writers, they possessed 80,000 sheep, 3,000 head of oxen, and other animals in proportion. I believe none of the vast possessions are yet sold."

In fact, the convent—now offered to any joint-

stock company—had been the nucleus of the town, which now languishes:—

"Amongst the changes which this celebrated sanctuary has undergone, it narrowly escaped being converted into a regular den of robbers on the largest scale. Finding Cabrera's sanctum at Santa Veleja in Valencia, where the prisoners he did not execute and the fruits of his pillage were kept, answer so good a purpose, Palillos, the General-in-chief of the army of the centre who, I have heard, was originally a presidiario or convict, determined to make Guadalupe his fortress and centre of operations. It was taken possession of and some progress made, but the plan was obliged to be given up, in consequence of the checks he received as soon as the Government was able to devote a little attention to him."

On returning from Guadalupe, the travellers next "made for" Almaden. On this route we read of more attractive and picturesque scenery, than we have been accustomed to associate with our ideas of Spanish travel. The caravansera in the Plaza was in the genuine Spanish style:—

"An ample space was covered by a rude and irregular roof, portions of which appeared to have been added at different times. Under this were arranged every description of package, alabardas, or pack-saddles, tinajas or jars carried on asses; bales made to balance each other, bags of salt, and every sort of merchandize carried by the arrieros. Baggage was laid out and the muskets of the parties near it; cooking was going on at an open fire; the most unsavoury odours were exhaled by the rancid oil, forming the basis of it, which would have been insupportable, but from their being tempered and softened by the ammonia and other correctives issuing from the stables, which opened into it. Mantas were being spread and the respective mozos were preparing to pass the early part of night in this elysium, lulled by the tinkling of the bells attached to their steeds, and only likely to be occasionally disturbed by the amorous whinings of some and the more amorous responses of others, with an occasional battle in consequence. In short, it was so true a specimen of a haunt of arrieros, that you might travel from Cadiz to Pamplona, or from Coruña to Barcelona without meeting anything more perfect in the line."

It was with great difficulty that the travellers found habitable quarters for the night, as this lively abode was voted untenable; at last, thanks to the Alcalde, they were provided with a better shelter for repose, ere visiting the quick-silver mines, of which Capt. Widdrington gives a tolerably minute account. He arrived just in time, since a few days later the works would have been closed for the summer, the unhealthiness of the labour requiring such a cessation for the workmen.

"The following day we descended into the works. The great adit is just outside the town, which is hoisted over the mine itself, and after traversing a gallery we came to the first ladder, by which we descended, and successively ten others of different lengths. They are very steep, like common home ladders, and at the top and bottom the entrance and egress are sometimes a little difficult and inconvenient, but there is little danger in the operation of descending. In places there are galleries of communication conducting to some distance from the perpendicular shaft to others of the series; of course the ascent of the vast number of steps was a little fatiguing, and the heat made the egress extremely agreeable. There is very little water in the workings, and it is delivered by one of the rarest of machines, an original one by Watt, made about 1790, which was of course considered a marvel in its day. Fortunately the quantity of water is so trifling that as yet they have had no occasion to change, but they were talking about making improvements in it. The mineral is hoisted by mules up a magnificent shaft, which is so near the engine that both purposes could be answered by the substitution of more modern mechanism. There are three great veins, called S. Nicolas, S. Francisco, and S. Diego, the directions of which are on the whole nearly parallel with each other, but they converge in places, and are connected by galleries below; the extent is considerable, the depth being rather more than equal to

the length of the mine. We were very near the lowest level, having descended to the bottom working gallery, and below us was only the rough rock which the workmen were blasting. The entire depth of the workings at present is about three hundred and two varas or yards, about nine hundred feet; they work in a perpendicular direction, or nearly so, in following the line of the mineral. So little appearance is there of any diminution in this extraordinary deposit, that it increases both in quantity and quality as they descend, and the finest qualities are quite at the lowest part. In consequence of accidents which happened long since, and probably the example of Idrin, they have gradually given up the use of wood excepting for temporary support, when it is indispensable during the operations of the masons, and all the permanent works are now of stone. I saw one magnificent arch, about the finest I ever beheld, which was being turned very near the lowest level, for the purpose of supporting two galleries and allow the middle wall between them to be taken away. All the works are executed in a truly royal manner, and so capacious and enlarged are the views carried out in the management, that they only take away about one half of the mineral, leaving the other as a legacy to the future possessors of it and to provide a supply in case of unforeseen accidents in the workings. On the same principle they regulate the consumption or vend, which is limited at present to about twenty thousand quintals, the Spanish quintal being about 105½ English. There are about five thousand men employed in and about the mine during the full season. Those who work below are divided into three watches, each of which works about six hours out of the twenty-four, the rest or cessation being from ten at night until four in the morning, when they recommence. I think the number of miners belonging to these parties is about eight hundred, besides pumpers, artificers and others engaged in the mechanical parts. There are no foreigners whatever in any department at present, but I saw amongst the population some physiognomies of undoubted German origin, whose ancestors no doubt had been employed here. The storehouses and magazines are on a scale corresponding with the rest of this vast establishment; they are chiefly cut in the solid rock, and contain an ample store of everything. There are eight old furnaces and two new high ones on the plan of those at Idrin. * * * Almost everything is made within the establishment; even the rope is manufactured there, although the hemp is brought from Granada. The timber chiefly employed is the encina, which is purchased by contract, but the best for construction where length is wanted is that of the Pinus Hispanica, which is brought a great distance from the Sierra de Cuenca; and I also saw some trunks of the Quejigo. The being obliged to purchase timber proceeds from the gross and scandalous neglect of former administrations, as they have a tract of ten or twelve miles square belonging to the establishment which would grow far more timber than they could ever require, the greater part of which is now unproductive or merely xaral."

The journey from Almaden was by no means deficient in interest, though the road taken seems to have been little better, or more precisely indicated, than a sheep-track. The mid-day halt was at Hinojosa, where the women were found sitting in the sun at their doors, having their hair dressed, and little ashamed of being caught at this occupation, exchanged courtesies with the travellers. Velmez was the resting-place for the night, if rest that pause deserves to be called which is spent in a posada, where hall, kitchen, and stable are one. Here, at supper, we are introduced to "a character"—

"Dressed in a sort of harlequin mojo costume with very many colours about him, who stood behind whilst we were at supper and never sat down, but entered largely into the conversation which was going on. He was a relation, and so determined a sportsman that he told me he shot every day in the year, and although it was the middle of May he had been out that morning! The grand feat of his life was the killing twenty-five partridges at three shots! This was accomplished by watching the birds at the pools in the xarales where they resort in the dry season for water, when the sportsmen fire into the covey upon

the ground! This extraordinary performance had been related to the Bishop of the diocese, who in his visitation had partaken the hospitality of our hosts. The Bishop was incredulous and jocularly said he must produce a witness, who happened to be a monk, a connexion of the family. They dropped their voices when this came out, being half ashamed of having such a clansman. No other proof need be adduced of the enormous quantity of game in this district, which we had observed by the numbers disturbed by a cur dog belonging to the peasant who had followed us from Hinojosa. Besides the favourite subject, the conversation turned a good deal on England, and they asked many questions founded on strange theories and biographies of 'the Duke' and others, some of them very unaccountable. The channels through which they had travelled to this remote district was that of the Parisian press, and strange anecdotes and memoirs were here doled out in Spanish dress and with a few amplifications. Some of them were so extraordinary that I was obliged to rally the major who supplied them, on his sources of information, to the great amusement of the party, more especially of the bystanders; he appeared to be perfectly good humoured and a true specimen of that description of character known amongst our neighbours as 'bon diable.'"

There are coal-mines at Velmez. These, however, have been so partially worked, that it is difficult to ascertain the extent of the vein. The coal formation stretches as far as Fuente Ovejuna, a place of 5 to 6,000 inhabitants, built on the top of a pyramidal hill. At Pedroso there is a new iron foundry, commenced in 1831, which appears to be flourishing.

This book is so full of matter, though it be somewhat unartistically arranged, that we have not attempted to give even an outline of its contents, but merely extracted such passages as contained something new or curious. We do not remember to have elsewhere read of the useful class mentioned in the following extract. The author writes from Leon; and after a minute description of its cathedral and other of its *still-life* curiosities, comes to the human beings:—

"The great annual fair was held during my stay, but presented little worthy of notice, everything that was sold or bought being apparently of the most ordinary description, and no costumes or anything striking were seen amongst the crowd assembled there from the adjacent districts. I took advantage of this favourable opportunity to make enquiries respecting the Maragatos, numbers of whom, as a matter of course, were in attendance, and procured an introduction to some of the leaders of that curious race. I questioned them particularly respecting any traditions that might exist amongst them, as to their origin and the name they bear; but they said all they knew was, that it was understood they derived it from a king of that name, of whom further notice will occur in the description of Oviedo. I had subsequently opportunities of hearing a good deal about them, and from their manners, appearance, and whatever can be gleaned respecting their history, have not the smallest doubt they are the remnant of some tribe who came into the country about the time of the great emigration of the Visigoths and other nations of the north, and like the tribe settled near Vincenza, managed to keep themselves distinct from the surrounding population. They are a sedate grave people, always intent on their business, and of dry and matter-of-fact speech, but not rough or unpolished. The most striking peculiarity, and which alone furnishes a strong presumption that they are of Northern and not of Arab origin, is the traditional habit of the men quitting their homes at all times, and leaving the agriculture solely to the women. No doubt their present occupation, which is solely the transporting goods and passengers in every part of Spain, is a modification, or rather succession, of the warlike habits of their ancestors, who left the tillage to their females, as unworthy the attention of those born and bred to war, the only employment they either liked or understood. Although, in answer to my questions, they admitted believing that their name proceeded from Mauragatus, it was evidently

with reluctance, and that they attached no very agreeable recollections to the circumstance. * * * The present mode of living of these people is almost solely by transporting merchandise from one part of Spain to the other, in which important avocation they are unrivalled in the Peninsula. Their mules and all accompaniments are of the best order, and their fidelity and punctuality in executing what they have undertaken, unequalled. Their terms are very high, but you are quite certain in dealing with them of being well served, nor do they ever lower their demand,—another un-Arab habit. Should any one want their assistance, all he has to do is to ask whether any Maragatos are travelling in the direction required, which any of them will answer, and inform you what the whole tribe are about, as all their plans are arranged more or less in concert with each other, and no secrets are kept amongst them. Some are probably gone to Madrid, others to Galicia, one division to Biscay, and another possibly to Aragon or Andalusia, so that you can take measures accordingly; and whilst under their protection you need fear neither robbers for your person or effects. The chief of them at present is Cordero, the deputy to the Cortes from Leon, for which place he was elected, it is said, by means of his ample resources, being one of the very richest individuals in Spain; he was previously mentioned in the account of Madrid, where he is at this moment, the rival of Salamanca in the 'monster contract,' of which further notice will be given. This man always wears the costume of his tribe, but made of the richest materials. I inquired about the particulars of his acquiring such enormous wealth, which was inherited partly from his father; but an immense sum was made—reader! you will never guess in what manner: by conveying the treasures of Ferdinand from one place to the other during his successive voyages and travels! The absolute King of Spain and the Indies, with all the monarchy at his command, obliged to entrust his private property to the Maragatos! This is most curious as an historical fact, and as showing the state of the kingdom in his glorious reign; whilst it furnishes an infinitely honourable trait of the curious tribe we are describing. Their next grand operation was that of what is called the 'Brigades,' towards the close of the civil war, and is hardly less curious. When, after trying every plan for supplying the army with provisions and stores, none could be found to succeed, they resorted to the Maragatos, who undertook and carried it through, being paid of course very high, and in ready money, without which they will do nothing. I believe there is no doubt that the faithful discharge of this important duty, of which every military reader knows the inestimable value, principally enabled the Regent to bring the operations of the civil war to a close. Their custom is to internary exclusively amongst themselves, and consequently they are very much connected together. Cordero is of course a kind of patriarch, and appears to have as many cousins as the head of a Highland clan. Their costume is a loose jacket falling below the waist, a peculiar shaped hat, broad in the brim, loose prolongations and gaiters tied with coarse ribbon at the knees, and a strong waist belt of black leather. The colour of the cloth is the dark brown of the country, the ornamental parts red; and the effect is plain, but clean and neat. Parts of this dress resemble in a small degree that seen on some of the captives on the Dacian column, and their whole style, physiognomy, and appearance, is entirely and exclusively Northern; nor is there a trace or lineament of Moorish or African origin about them."

Among the most interesting chapters in the second volume are those devoted to Oviedo, its ancient churches, and its university. Many primitive customs are kept alive in this old town:—

"Whilst passing a detached part of these walks I heard a noise of voices, singing much in the manner so common in the gardens and other places of public resort on similar occasions in Germany. On going to the spot to ascertain the cause of this unusual proceeding, I found an immense crowd assembled and dancing going forward; the noise I had heard proceeded from the voices of the parties engaged, who furnished the sole accompaniment. The dancing was in circles, men and women mixed indistinctly."

criminally without reference to the proportions of either sex, or the smallest limitation as to numbers. In one set I counted more than one hundred persons. They held 'hands round,' moving circularly, and making a step forward each time to the centre, and then back, the whole rather in slow time, and changing the ground very gradually. In the centre of the circle were men and women, detached, but principally the former, who came forward challenging any of the females in the ring, who immediately left their place, and after setting to him, and dancing a short time, resumed their station. The air they sang was extremely striking from its great life and expression; but it was impossible to any one unaccustomed to make out the words, which were varied constantly, and I suspected were sung differently by the various parties. There was little display of steps or figures, but the movements of many were very graceful, being with the body, and not merely the feet and lower extremities as practised by the peasantry in many countries. The most distinguished amongst the men was dressed in a common jacket and costume of the town, but his head was surmounted with a curious sky-blue cap, intended to stand horizontally on the head, but he had it adjusted so that it hung nearly perpendicularly over one ear, giving him a very dandy look. This fellow might have gone to Ronda, and fearlessly challenged the majos of Andalusia to dance with him. On inquiry, I found that this custom was of the most remote antiquity, having been always practised in the country; and they assured me that some of the songs occasionally used, which are handed down traditionally by the peasantry, refer to the deeds of Don Pelayo, and the wars with the Moors. There is, however, great difficulty in procuring the words, as they are not written, and the people, especially the women, who are the principal depositories of this kind of lore, are unwilling, from a little shyness, to repeat them to strangers. Some specimens I heard recited were more like what might have been expected in the courts of the Paladins, addressing their ladies in the olden time, than the common effusions of peasantry, as daily used. The air was extremely simple, but animated to an uncommon degree; and I constantly heard the young girls in the cottages repeating it at their work."

We suspect Captain Widdrington to be less competent as a witness in music than in architecture. His notices of Spain's ancient treasures of the latter description, whether Saracenic, Gothic, or Plateresco, are copious and interesting. Oríolo is rich in architectural remains: the Cathedral, the churches of San Tirso (a sanctity whose acquaintance we have not before had the honour of making), San Juan, the famous ancient churches of Santa Maria de Naranco, and the cruciform building of San Miguel, offer points of curiosity. We were not prepared to hear that the common people of Spain interest themselves in such toys as these; yet our author was directed to one of the most interesting buildings he visited, a solitary church at Manzanera, by two workmen, by whom its peculiarities were appreciated.

But we must have done, having said enough to direct the reader to the work; and the writer's manner does not lend itself so well to the enrichment of a periodical by extract, as that of many an author less perfectly acquainted with his subject.

The Septuagint Version in English. Translated by Sir Lancelot C. L. Brenton, Bart. Bagster.

Dr. Wall was the first who directed the attention of Biblical students to the important fact, that most of the discrepancies between the Septuagint version and the existing Hebrew text, have arisen from the efforts of the Rabbins to introduce a system of vocalization into their language, the want of which was of course felt when Hebrew ceased to be generally spoken. According to this theory, Hellenistic influence may be traced not merely in the Greek translation of the Bible, but even in the Hebrew text itself, as it is now preserved by the Jews; and the pointed

Hebrew Bible must be regarded as a translation, not as an original record. The Septuagint and the pointed Hebrew are thus placed on the same level as rival versions. Dr. Wall's theory goes further, for it impugns the originality of even the unpointed text, for the attempt to vocalize it by the introduction of the letters *Ahevi* must, from the nature of the Hebrew language, have led to many perversions of the sense. It has been announced that Dr. Wall's work, minutely examining the internal evidence in support of this theory, will be published in the course of the present year. Sir Lancelot Brenton's translation suggests some historical inquiries which may throw light on the external aspect of the question, and we shall very briefly state the outlines of these investigations.

The great question to be decided, is the extent to which Hellenization was carried in central and western Asia under the Macedonian empire of Alexander and his successors. Egypt under the Ptolemies is the portion of that empire of which we have the most perfect account, and there can be little doubt that the language and literature of that kingdom became perfectly Greek. There is evidence that the Seleucidae endeavoured to bring about the same change in their Syrian kingdom; and though they were not equally successful, we find, from the New Testament, that Greek was the common spoken language in Palestine itself; so that when Christ on the cross made an exclamation in Syrian (*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*), the bystanders did not understand his words (they said, "He calleth for Elias"). It is noticed as a remarkable circumstance, that St. Paul on one occasion addressed a Jewish mob in the Hebrew tongue, and far the greater part, if not the whole, of the New Testament was written in Greek. To this may be added, that the quotations made from the Old Testament in the New, are taken from the Septuagint or some other Greek version, but not in any demonstrable case from the original Hebrew. It is not necessary to extend this inquiry further, else it would be easy to show that the Jews who settled in Alexandria exercised a very decided influence over their brethren in Palestine, and that this influence increased the tendency to Hellenism, which it was the policy of the Macedonian rulers to establish.

Nothing but a very minute and critical examination of the internal evidence would justify a decision in favour of the present Hebrew text or of the Septuagint in the passages where they differ, and Sir Lancelot Brenton has done good service to the cause of Biblical Criticism, by rendering the Septuagint accessible to general readers, for until public attention is directed to the issue, scholars are not likely to undertake the labours necessary to lead to a right decision.

Commerce of the Prairies; or, the Journal of a Santa Fé Trader, during eight expeditions across the Great Western Prairies, and a residence of nearly nine years in Northern Mexico. By Joseph Gregg. 2 vols. New York, Langley; London, Wiley & Putnam.

HERE is another tramp, or rather a series of tramps, across the Prairies to Santa Fé, taken for the benefit of the narrator's health. The author, by the advice of his physicians, joined one of those spring caravans which start annually from the United States for Santa Fé. Such was the love which he thereby acquired for Prairie life, that he repeated the trip, and thus crossed the Prairies eight different times; passing the intervals not thus occupied in Northern Mexico. Having also engaged in the Santa Fé trade, he is able to speak of the commerce as well as of the country; and most of the facts presented in his sketch of the natural history of the Prairies,

and of the Indian tribes who inhabit them, are, he states, for the first time, published in this work.

Passing over the history of the first establishment (in 1822) of the Santa Fé trade, we shall plunge at once into the adventures of the book. On descending into the valley of the Cimarron, our traveller got the first view of a band of Indian warriors. They were on horseback, and suddenly appeared from behind the ravines:—

"An imposing array of death-dealing savages! There was no merriment in this! It was a genuine alarm—a tangible reality! These warriors, however, as we soon discovered, were only the vanguard of a 'countless host,' who were by this time pouring over the opposite ridge, and galloping directly towards us. The waggons were soon irregularly 'formed' upon the hill-side: but in accordance with the habitual carelessness of caravan traders, a great portion of the men were unprepared for the emergency. Scores of guns were 'empty,' and as many more had been wetted by the recent showers, and would not 'go off.' Here was one calling for balls—another for powder—a third for flints. Exclamations such as, 'I've broke my ramrod'—'I've spilt my caps'—'I've rammed down a ball without powder'—'My gun is 'choked,' give me yours'—were heard from different quarters; while a timorous 'greenhorn' would perhaps cry out, 'Here, take my gun; you can outshoot me!' The more daring bolted off to encounter the enemy at once, while the timid and cautious took a stand with presented rifle behind the waggons. The Indians who were in advance made a bold attempt to press upon us, which came near costing them dearly; for some of our fiery backwoodsmen more than once had their rusty but unerring rifles directed upon the intruders, some of whom would inevitably have fallen before their deadly aim, had not some of the more prudent traders interposed. The Indians made demonstrations no less hostile, rushing with ready strung bows, upon a portion of our men, who had gone in search of water; and mischief would perhaps have ensued, had not the impetuosity of the warriors been checked by the wise men of the nation. The Indians were collecting around us, however, in such great numbers, that it was deemed expedient to force them away, so as to resume our march, or at least to take a more advantageous position. Our company was therefore mustered and drawn up in 'line of battle'; and, accompanied by the sound of a drum and fife, we marched towards the main group of the Indians. The latter seemed far more delighted than frightened with this strange parade and music,—a spectacle they had, no doubt, never witnessed before; and perhaps looked upon the whole movement rather as a complimentary salute than a hostile array; for there was no interpreter through whom any communication could be conveyed to them. But, whatever may have been their impressions, one thing is certain,—that the principal chief (who was dressed in a long red coat of strouding, or coarse cloth) appeared to have full confidence in the virtues of his calumet, which he lighted, and came boldly forward to meet our warlike corps, serenely smoking the 'pipe of peace.' Our captain, now taking a whiff with the savage chief, directed him by signs to cause his warriors to retire. This most of them did, to rejoin the long train of squaws and papooses, with the baggage, who followed in the rear, and were just then seen emerging from beyond the hills. Having slowly descended to the banks of the stream, they pitched their wigwams or lodges; over five hundred of which soon bespeckled the ample valley before us, and at once gave to its recently meagre surface the aspect of an immense Indian village. The entire number of the Indians, when collected together, could not have been less than from two to three thousand—although some of our company insisted that there were at least four thousand souls. In such a case they must have mustered nearly a thousand warriors, while we were but little over two hundred strong. Still, our superior arms and the protection afforded by the waggons, gave us considerably the advantage, even supposing an equality in point of valour. However, the appearance of the squaws and children soon convinced us that, for the present at least, they had no hostile intentions; so we also descended into the valley and formed our camp a few

hundred yards below them. The 'capitanes' or head men of the whites and Indians, shortly after met, and, again smoking the calumet, agreed to be friends."

They were nevertheless annoyed by the presence of these unwelcome visitors, until the treaty of peace was "sealed," by presents being made to the chiefs. Afterwards they had a skirmish with some Comanches, without damage, however, to any but the savages themselves. Take, now, a description of the capital of New Mexico:—

"Santa Fé is the only town of any importance in the province. Like most of the towns in this section of country, it occupies the site of an ancient Pueblo or Indian village, whose race has been extinct for a great many years. Its situation is twelve or fifteen miles east of the Rio del Norte, at the western base of a snow-clad mountain, upon a beautiful stream of small mill-power size, which ripples down in icy cascades, and joins the river some twenty miles to the south-westward. The population of the city itself but little exceeds 3,000; yet, including several surrounding villages which are embraced in its corporate jurisdiction, it amounts to nearly 6,000 souls. The town is very irregularly laid out, and most of the streets are little better than common highways traversing scattered settlements which are interspersed with corn-fields nearly sufficient to supply the inhabitants with grain. The only attempt at anything like architectural compactness and precision, consists in four tiers of buildings, whose fronts are shaded with a fringe of *portales* or *corredores* of the rudest possible description. They stand around the public square, and comprise the *Palacio*, or Governor's house, the Custom-house, the Barracks (with which is connected the fearful *Calabozo*), the *Casa Consistorial* of the *Alcaldes*, the *Capilla de los Soldados* or Military Chapel, besides several private residences, as well as most of the shops of the American traders."

The following account of the ruins of La Gran Quivira will be interesting. We must premise that tradition speaks of numerous and productive mines having been worked in New Mexico previous to the expulsion of the Spaniards in 1680, and of their having been filled up by the Indians, who were of opinion that the cupidity of the conquerors had been the cause of their former oppressions. In every quarter of the territory vestiges of excavations are visible:—

"Among these ancient ruins the most remarkable are those of *La Gran Quivira*, about a hundred miles southward from Santa Fé. This appears to have been a considerable city, larger and richer by far than the present capital of New Mexico has ever been. Many walls, particularly those of churches, still stand erect amid the desolation that surrounds them, as if their sacredness had been a shield against which Time dealt his blows in vain. The style of architecture is altogether superior to anything at present to be found north of Chihuahua—being of hewn stone, a building material wholly unused in New Mexico. What is more extraordinary still, is, that there is no water within less than some ten miles of the ruins; yet we find several stone cisterns, and remains of aqueducts eight or ten miles in length, leading from the neighbouring mountains, from whence water was no doubt conveyed. And, as there seem to be no indications whatever of the inhabitants ever having been engaged in agricultural pursuits, what could have induced the rearing of a city in such an arid, woodless plain as this, except the proximity of some valuable mine, it is difficult to imagine. From the peculiar character of the place and the remains of the cisterns still existing, the object of pursuit in this case would seem to have been a *placer*, a name applied to mines of gold-dust intermixed with the earth. However, other mines have no doubt been worked in the adjacent mountains, as many spacious pits are found, such as are usually dug in pursuit of ores of silver, &c.: and it is stated that in several places heaps of scoria are still to be seen. By some persons these ruins have been supposed to be the remains of an ancient Pueblo or aboriginal city. That is not probable, however, for though the relics of aboriginal temples might possibly be mistaken for those of Catholic churches, yet it is not to be pre-

sumed that the Spanish coat of arms would be found sculptured and painted upon their façades, as is the case in more than one instance. The most rational accounts represent this to have been a wealthy Spanish city before the general massacre of 1680, in which calamity the inhabitants perished—all except one, as the story goes; and that their immense treasures were buried in the ruins. Some credulous adventurers have lately visited the spot in search of these long-lost coffers, but as yet none have been found."

The state of art, science, and society at New Mexico is at the lowest possible ebb:—

"Capital crimes and highway robberies are of comparatively rare occurrence in the North, but in smaller delinquencies, such as pilfering and petty rogues of every shade and description, the common classes can very successfully compete with any other people. Nothing indeed can be left exposed or unguarded without great danger of its being immediately stolen. No husbandman would think of leaving his axe or his hoe, or anything else of the slightest value, lying out over night. Empty waggons are often pillaged of every moveable piece of iron, and even the wheels have been carried away. Pieces of merchandise are frequently purloined from the shelves, when they happen to be in reach. In Chihuahua, goods have actually been snatched from the counter while being exposed to the inspection of a pretended purchaser. I once had a trick of this kind played upon me by a couple of boys, who made their escape through a crowd of spectators with their booty exposed. In vain I cried, '*Agarren a los ladrones!*' (catch the thieves!) not a single individual moved to apprehend them. I then proffered the goods stolen to any person who might succeed in bringing the rogues to me, but to no purpose. In fact, there seems to exist a great deal of repugnance, even among the better classes, to apprehending thieves; as if the mere act of informing against them was considered dishonourable. I heard a very respectable caballero once remark, that he had seen a man purloin certain articles of merchandise, but he could not be induced to give up his name; observing, 'O, I can't think of exposing the poor fellow!'"

The following is the story of "a lady of fashion" in New Mexico:—

"Some twelve or fifteen years ago there lived (or rather roamed) in Taos, a certain female of very loose habits, known as *La Tules*. Finding it difficult to obtain the means of living in that district, she extended her wanderings to the capital. She there became a constant attendant on one of those pandemoniums where the favourite game of *monte* was dealt *pro bono publico*. Fortune at first did not seem inclined to smile upon her efforts, and for some years she spent her days in lowliness and misery. At last her luck turned, as gamblers would say, and on one occasion she left the bank with a spoil of several hundred dollars! This enabled her to open a bank of her own, and being favoured by a continued run of good fortune, she gradually rose higher and higher in the scale of affluence, until she found herself in possession of a very handsome fortune. In 1842, she sent to the United States some ten thousand dollars to be invested in goods. She still continues her favourite 'amusement,' being now considered the most expert 'monte dealer' in all Santa Fé. She is openly received in the first circles of society: I doubt, in truth, whether there is to be found in the city a lady of more fashionable reputation than this same *Tules*, now known as *Senora Donna Gertrudes Barcelo*."

For an illustration of manners, let us extract another passage:—

"Of all the petty vices practised by the New Mexicans, the *vicio inocente* of smoking among ladies, is the most intolerable; and yet it is a habit of which the loveliest and the most refined equally partake. The *puro* or *cigarro* is seen in the mouth of all: it is handed round in the parlour, and introduced at the dinner table—even in the ball-room it is presented to ladies as regularly as any other species of 'refreshment'; and in the dance the *senorita* may often be seen whirling round with a lighted *cigarrito* in her mouth. The belles of the Southern cities are very frequently furnished with *tenazitas de oro* (little golden tongs), to hold the cigar with, so as to prevent their delicate fingers from being polluted either with the stain or

scent of tobacco; forgetting at the same time its disagreeable effects upon the lips and breath."

The aboriginal inhabitants, the author tells us, are now divided into the catholicized and the uncatholicized—the former are distinguished by the name *Pueblos*, and the latter are known as the *Wild Tribes*. The account of these, however, is given in such mere historical outline, that it offers no materials for quotation. The following illustration of the Cherokee bankrupt law is more amusing to the reader than the victim:—

"On the 28th of April we crossed the Arkansas river a few miles above the mouth of the Canadian fork. We had only proceeded a short distance beyond when a Cherokee shop-keeper came up to us with an attachment for debt against a free mulatto, whom we had engaged as teamster. The poor fellow had no alternative but to return with the importunate creditor, who committed him at once to the care of 'Judge Lynch' for trial. We ascertained afterwards that he had been sentenced to 'take the benefit of the bankrupt law' after the manner of the Cherokees of that neighbourhood. This is done by stripping and tying the victim to a tree; when each creditor, with a good cow-hide or hickory switch in his hand, scores the amount of the bill due upon his bare back. One stripe for every dollar due is the usual process of 'whitewashing,' and as the application of the lash is accompanied by all sorts of quaint remarks, the exhibition affords no small merriment to those present, with the exception, no doubt, of the delinquent himself. After the ordeal is over, the creditors declare themselves perfectly satisfied: nor could they, as is said, ever be persuaded thereafter to receive one red cent of the amount due, even if it were offered to them. As the poor mulatto was also in our debt, and was perhaps apprehensive that we might exact payment in the same currency, he never showed himself again."

Some anecdotes are given of Mexican captivity among the Indian tribes that excite reflection:—

"While we were enjoying our noon's rest upon a ravine of the Canadian, several parties of Indians, amounting altogether to about three hundred souls, including women and children, made their appearance. They belonged to the same band of Comanches with whom we had had so agreeable an intercourse, and had brought several mules in the expectation of driving a trade with us. The squaws and papooses were so anxious to gratify their curiosity, and so very soon began to give such striking manifestations of their pilfering propensities, that, at the request of the chiefs, we carried some goods at a little distance, where a trade was opened in hopes of attracting their attention. One woman, I observed, still lingered among the waggons, who, from certain peculiarities of features, struck me very forcibly as not being an Indian. In accordance with this impression, I addressed her in Spanish, and was soon confirmed in all my suspicions. She was from the neighbourhood of *Mitamoros*, and had been married to a Comanche since her captivity. She did not entertain the least desire of returning to her own people. Similar instances of voluntary captivity have frequently occurred. Dr. Sibley, in a communication to the War Department, in 1805, relates an affecting case, which shows how a sensitive female will often prefer remaining with her masters, rather than encounter the horrible ordeal of ill-natured remarks to which she would inevitably be exposed on being restored to civilized life. The Comanches some twenty years previous, having kidnapped the daughter of the Governor-General of Chihuahua, the latter transmitted \$1000 to a trader to procure her ransom. This was soon effected, but to the astonishment of all concerned, the unfortunate girl refused to leave the Indians. She sent word to her father, that they had disfigured her by tattooing; that she was married, and perhaps *enceinte*; and that she would be more unhappy by returning to her father under these circumstances than by remaining where she was. My attention was next attracted by a sprightly lad, ten or twelve years old, whose nationality could scarcely be detected under his Indian guise. But, though quite 'Indianized,' he was exceedingly polite. I inquired of him in Spanish, 'Are you not a Mexican?'"

'Yes, sir,—I once was.' 'What is your name?' 'Bernardino Saenz, sir, at your service.' 'When and where were you taken?' 'About four years ago, at the Hacienda de las Animas, near Parral.' 'Shan't we buy you and take you to your people?—we are going thither.' At this he hesitated a little, and then answered in an affecting tone, 'No, señor: ya soy demasiado bruto para vivir entre los Cristianos' (O, no, sir; I am now too much of a brute to live among Christians); adding that his owner was not there, and that he knew the Indian in whose charge he came would not sell him. * * Out of half a dozen Mexican captives that happened to be with our new visitors, we only met with one who manifested the slightest inclination to abandon Indian life. This was a stupid boy about fifteen years of age, who had probably been roughly treated on account of his laziness. We very soon struck a bargain with his owner, paying about the price of a mule for the little outcast, whom I sent to his family as soon as we reached Chihuahua. Notwithstanding the inherent stupidity of my protégé, I found him abundantly grateful—much to his credit be it spoken—for the little service I had been able to render him."

Southern Mexico is celebrated, it appears, for its scorpions, and Durango as being the headquarters of the family:—

"During the spring, especially, so much are the houses infested by these poisonous insects, that many people are obliged to have resort to a kind of mosquito-bar, in order to keep them out of their beds at night. As an expedient to deliver the city from this terrible pest, a society has actually been formed, which pays a reward of a *cuartilla* (three cents) for every *alacran* (or scorpion) that is brought to them. Stimulated by the desire of gain, the idle boys of the city are always on the look out; so that, in the course of a year, immense numbers of this public enemy are captured and slaughtered. The body of this insect is of the bulk of a medium spider, with a jointed tail one to two inches long, at the end of which is a sting whose wounds are so poisonous as often to prove fatal to children, and are very painful to adults. The most extraordinary peculiarity of these scorpions is, that they are far less dangerous in the North than in the South, which in some manner accounts for the story told Capt. Pike, that even those of Durango lose most of their venom as soon as they are removed a few miles from the city."

The brigands in the neighbourhood are as bad as the scorpions:—

"On the 22nd we left Durango, and after a few days' march found ourselves once more in the *camino real* that led from Chihuahua to Zacatecas. All the frightful stories I had heard about robbers now began to flash upon my memory, which made me regard every man I encountered on the road with a very suspicious eye. As all travellers go armed, it is impossible to distinguish them from banditti; so that the unsuspecting trader is very frequently set upon by the very man he had been consorting with in apparent good-fellowship, and either murdered on the spot, or dragged from his horse with the lazo, and plundered of all that is valuable about him. I have heard it asserted that there is a regular bandit trade organized throughout the country, in which some of the principal officers of state, (and particularly of the judicial corps) are not unfrequently engaged. A capital is made up by shares, as for any other enterprise, bandits are fitted out and instructed where to operate, and at stated periods of the year a regular dividend is paid to the stock-holders. The impunity which these 'gentlemen of the order' almost everywhere enjoy in the country, is therefore not to be marvelled at. In Durango, during my sojourn there, a well-dressed caballero was frequently in the habit of entering our *meson*, whom mine host soon pointed out to me as a notorious brigand. 'Beware of him,' said the honest publican; 'he is prying into your affairs'—and so it turned out; for my muleteer informed me that the fellow had been trying to pump from him all the particulars in regard to our condition and destination. Yet this worthy was not only suffered to prowl about unmolested by the authorities, but appeared to be on familiar terms with many of the principal dignitaries of the city. Notwithstanding all our apprehensions, however, we arrived at our place of destination without even

the novelty of an incident to swell our budget of gossip."

At length the party encountered an attack from the Pawnees.

"On the evening of the 10th our camp was pitched in the neighbourhood of a ravine in the prairie, and as the night was dark and dreary, the watch tried to comfort themselves by building a rousing fire, around which they presently drew, and commenced 'spinning long yarns,' about Mexican fandangoes and black-eyed damsels. All of a sudden the stillness of the night was interrupted by a loud report of fire-arms, and a shower of bullets came whizzing by the ears of the heedless sentinels. Fortunately, however, no one was injured; which must be looked upon as a very extraordinary circumstance, when we consider what a fair mark our men, thus huddled round a blazing fire, presented to the rifles of the Indians. The savage yells, which resounded from every part of the ravine, bore very satisfactory testimony that this was no false alarm: and the 'Pawnee whistle,' which was heard in every quarter, at once impressed us with the idea of its being a band of that famous prairie banditti. Every man sprang from his pallet with rifle in hand; for, upon the Prairies, we always sleep with our arms by our sides or under our heads. Our Comanche seemed at first very much at a loss what to do. At last, thinking it might possibly be a band of his own nation, he began a most boisterous harangue in his vernacular tongue, which he continued for several minutes; when finding that the enemy took no notice of him, and having become convinced also, from an occasional Pawnee word which he was able to make out, that he had been wasting breath with the mortal foes of his race, he suddenly ceased all expostulations, and blazed away with his rifle, with a degree of earnestness which was truly edifying, as if convinced that that was the best he could do for us. It was now evident that the Indians had taken possession of the entire ravine, the nearest points of which were not fifty yards from our waggons; a warning to prairie travellers to encamp at a greater distance from whatsoever might afford shelter for an enemy. The banks of the gully were low, but still they formed a very good breast-work, behind which the enemy lay enconced, discharging volleys of balls upon our waggons, among which we were scattered. At one time we thought of making an attempt to rout them from their fortified position; but being ignorant of their number, and unable to distinguish any object through the dismal darkness which hung all around, we had to remain content with firing at random from behind our waggons, aiming at the flash of their guns, or in the direction whence any noise appeared to emanate. Indeed their yelling was almost continuous, breaking out every now and then in the most hideous screams and vociferous chattering, which were calculated to appal such timorous persons as we may have had in our caravan. All their screeching and whooping, however, had no effect—they could not make our animals break from the enclosure of the waggons, in which they were fortunately shut up; which was no doubt their principal object for attacking us. * * The enemy continued the attack for nearly three hours, when they finally retired, so as to make good their retreat before daylight. As it rained and snowed from that time till nine in the morning, their 'sign' was almost entirely obliterated, and we were unable to discover whether they had received any injury or not. It was evidently a foot party, which we looked upon as another proof of their being Pawnees; for these famous marauders are well-known to go forth on their expeditions of plunder without horses, although they seldom fail to return well mounted. Their shot had riddled our waggons considerably. We had the gratification to believe, however, that they did not get a single one of our animals: a horse which broke away at the first onset, doubtless made his escape; and a mule which was too badly wounded to travel, was dispatched by the muleteers, lest it should fall into the hands of the savages, or into the mouths of the wolves; and they deemed it more humane to leave it to be eaten dead than alive. We also experienced considerable damage in our stock of sheep, a number of them having been devoured by wolves. They had been scattered at the beginning of the attack; and, in their anxiety to fly from the scene of action had jumped

as it were, into the very jaws of their ravenous enemies."

It has indirectly been the author's aim to elaborate rather a full digest of his experience than to detail his personal adventures, and thus to present a book which shall give a general account of New Mexico, the Prairies, the Indian tribes, and the trade to Santa Fé; amusement, accordingly, is throughout subordinated to instruction.

False Science, and its Relation to Life.—[Die Falsche Wissenschaft, &c.] By J. G. von Wessenbergh. Stuttgart, Neff; London, Nutt.

"THE tree is known by its fruit," says our author's motto. Yes, by its true fruit—not by the fruit of the parasitical plants which twine themselves around it. As we must not condemn religion for the abuse of superstition, so we must not charge philosophy with the vanities of pseudo-science. We notice this tract less on account of its inherent value than for the interest which its subject possesses for the present age. "Practical social improvement," is the cry of the times; and all our science which does not tend to this is regarded as a burthen and a hindrance to humanity, rather than an instrument of good. If utilitarianism has been shallowly expounded and defended by some, it has been as shallowly controverted by others. Rightly understood, the doctrine of utility must be regarded as the most certain criterion by which to distinguish between true philosophy and pseudo-science. The institutions of the past which do not aid actual society are obsolete and dead: the doctrine regarding the future which is not of present utility is a mere dream.

Our author has wearied himself with reading the philosophical discussions of his countrymen, and has been driven by impatience at the apparent fruitlessness of such questions, "never-ending, still-beginning," into the extreme of decriing all philosophy. He starts with a consideration of the urgent need of social improvement, and the chief hindrances to its advancement. Among these, he reckons the perversion of practical religion by philosophical creeds and discussions. He finds the source of these in the scholasticism of the middle ages, which he regards as in contradiction with the true practical interests of human society. His argumentation, we think, is in many points very lame; but in his desire for social progress we accord. Yet we see no need of setting practical and speculative tenets at variance; the latter, which have been held merely verbally and formally, still contain the principle of actual exposition. We cannot regard the whole process of human inquiry as ending in nullity, though men have often sought for (and, of course, found) in their speculative doctrines, everything save the practical, useful, and applicatory truth, in which alone their true interest lies.

As we in England are annoyed by numbers of weak imitative novels, sent out by persons who never were intended to write, our German neighbours have their book-lists crowded with countless metaphysical tracts, many of them poor, confused collections of common-places and philosophical terms, with little or no meaning in them; yet we cannot agree with our author's indiscriminate censure of the philosophical writings of his countrymen. Practical results for every department of life are, at least, aimed at by the doctrines of the schools: the question of their translation from the school into life is still to be settled by experiment. In this tract against philosophy, our author shows that he has had considerable reading, by the numerous authorities he quotes; but his argument has no consistency, and affords no clue to guide speculation out of its labyrinth into clear daylight. Still, amid all our errors and distracted opinions, there is a system of intelligible and practical truth, as little disturbed by our theories, as the true solar system was by Ptolemaic reveries; and he who makes clear any parts of this system is the true philosopher. We protest against the author's 'desperandum' for a conclusion.

Eöthen, or Traces of Travel brought home from the East.

[Second Notice.]

In pursuing our oriental journey, we soon find, as already intimated, that we must get rid

of oriental associations. Our traveller's feelings are not historical, but personal. In looking on the Sea of Galilee, he thinks upon Wastwater and Windermere; and reverts to some "dear old memory from over the seas in England," when he should be endeavouring to realize the evangelical narratives. He dwells altogether in the present, and justifies his habit. It, however, makes him somewhat of a dangerous companion: he laughs at everything:—

"Except at Jerusalem, never think of attempting to sleep in a 'holy city.' Old Jews from all parts of the world go to lay their bones upon the sacred soil, and as these people never return to their homes, it follows that any domestic vermin which they may bring with them are likely to become permanently resident, so that the population is continually increasing. No recent census had been taken when I was at Tiberias, but I know that the congregation of fleas which attended at my church alone, must have been something enormous. It was a carnal, self-seeking congregation, wholly inattentive to the service which was going on, and devoted to the one object of having my blood. The fleas of all nations were there. The smug, steady, importunate flea from Holywell Street—the pert, jumping 'puce' from hungry France—the wary, watchful 'pulce' with his poisoned stiletto—the vengeful 'pulga' of Castile with his ugly knife—the German 'floh' with his knife, and fork—insatiate—not rising from table—whole swarms from all the Russias, and Asiatic hordes unnumbered—all these were there, and all rejoiced in one great international feast. I could no more defend myself against my enemies, than if I had been 'pain à discretion' in the hands of a French patriot, or English gold in the claws of a Pennsylvanian Quaker. After passing a night like this, you are glad to pick up the wretched remains of your body, long, long before morning dawns. Your skin is scorched—your temples throb—your lips feel withered and dried—your burning eye-balls are screwed inwards against the brain. You have no hope but only in the saddle, and the freshness of the morning air."

Thus it is that with our Eöthenist the Ideals vanish, and nothing but the ridiculous shadows of the present remain. But he will have it so; for, says he,—

"If a man, and an Englishman, be not born of his mother with a natural Chiffney-bit in his mouth, there comes to him a time for loathing the wearisome ways of society; a time for not liking tamed people; a time for not dancing quadrilles—not sitting in pews; a time for pretending that Milton, and Shelley, and all sorts of mere dead people, were greater in death than the first living Lord of the Treasury; a time, in short, for scoffing and railing—for speaking lightly of the very opera, and all our most cherished institutions. It is from nineteen to two or three and twenty, perhaps, that this war of the man against men is like to be waged most sullenly. You are yet in this smiling England, but you find yourself wending away to the dark sides of her mountains—climbing the dizzy crags—exulting in the fellowship of mists, and clouds, and watching the storms how they gather, or proving the mettle of your mare upon the broad and dreary downs, because that you feel congenially with the yet unparcellled earth. A little while you are free and unlabelled, like the ground that you compass, but Civilization is coming, and coming; you and your much-loved waste lands will be surely inclosed, and sooner or later you will be brought down to a state of utter uselessness—the ground will be curiously sliced into acres, and roods, and perches, and you, for all you sit so smartly in your saddle, you will be caught—you will be taken up from travel, as a colt from grass, to be trained, and tried, and matched, and run. All this in time, but first come continental tours, and the moody longing for Eastern travel; the downs and the moors of England can hold you no longer; with larger stride you burst away from these slips and patches of free land—you thread your path through the crowds of Europe, and at last on the banks of Jordan, you joyfully know that you are upon the very frontier of all accustomed respectabilities. There, on the other side of the river (you can swim it with one arm,) there reigns the people that will be like to put you to death for not being a vagrant, for not being a robber, for not

being armed and houseless. There is comfort in that—health, comfort, and strength to one who is dying from very weariness of that poor, dear, middle-aged, deserving, accomplished, pedantic, and painstaking governess, Europe."

With this explanation, the writer's vein becomes intelligible enough. Those to whom such humour is intolerable, had better not attempt to read Eöthen. At length the adventurer reached the Dead Sea:—

"I went on, and came near to those waters of Death; they stretched deeply into the southern desert, and before me, and all around, as far away as the eye could follow, blank hills piled high over hills, pale, yellow, and naked, walled up in her tomb for ever, the dead and damned Gomorrah. There was no fly that hummed in the forbidden air, but instead a deep stillness; no grass grew from the earth; no weed peered through the void sand, but in mockery of all life, there were trees borne down by Jordan in some ancient flood, and these grotesquely planted upon the forlorn shore, spread out their grim skeleton arms all scorched and charred to blackness, by the heats of the long, silent years. * * I bathed in the Dead Sea. The ground covered by the water sloped so gradually, that I was not only forced to 'sneak in,' but to walk through the water nearly a quarter of a mile before I could get out of my depth. When at last I was able to attempt a dive, the salts held in solution made my eyes smart so sharply, that the pain which I thus suffered acceding to the weakness occasioned by want of food, made me giddy and faint for some moments, but I soon grew better. I knew beforehand the impossibility of sinking in this buoyant water, but I was surprised to find that I could not swim at my accustomed pace; my legs and feet were lifted so high and dry out of the lake, that my stroke was baffled, and I found myself kicking against the thin air, instead of the dense fluid upon which I was swimming. The water is perfectly bright and clear—its taste detestable. After finishing my attempts at swimming and diving, I took some time in regaining the shore, and before I began to dress I found that the sun had already evaporated the water which clung to me, and that my skin was thickly encrusted with sulphate of magnesia."

We next find him in an Arab encampment, partaking of such poor cheer as could be had, and escaping danger by his nonchalance and presence of mind. His passage over the Jordan is very graphically described. Nor are the Easter ceremonies at Jerusalem less picturesquely or humorously portrayed. What a picture too—how richly coloured is the following:—

"To a Christian, and thorough-bred Englishman, not even the licentiousness which generally accompanies it, can compensate for the oppressiveness of that horrible outward decorum, which turns the cities and the palaces of Asia into deserts, and gaols. So, I say, when you see, and hear them, those romping girls of Bethlehem will gladden your very soul. Distant at first, and then nearer and nearer the timid flock will gather around you with their large, burning eyes gravely fixed against yours, so that they see into your brain, and if you imagine evil against them, they will know of your ill thought before it is yet well born, and will fly, and be gone in the moment. But presently, if you will only look virtuous enough to prevent alarm, and vicious enough to avoid looking silly, the blithe maidens will draw nearer, and nearer to you, and soon there will be one, the bravest of the sisters, who will venture right up to your side, and touch the hem of your coat, in playful defiance of the danger, and then the rest will follow the daring of their youthful leader, and gather close round you, and hold a shrill controversy on the wondrous formation that you call a hat, and the cunning of the hands that clothed you with cloth so fine; and then growing more profound in their researches, they will pass from the study of your mere dress, to a serious contemplation of your stately height, and your nut-brown hair, and the ruddy glow of your English cheeks. And if they catch a glimpse of your ungloved fingers, then again will they make the air ring with their sweet screams of wonder, and amazement, as they compare the fairness of your hand with their warmer tints, and even with the hues of your own sunburnt face; instantly the ringleader of

the gentle rioters imagines a new sin; with tremulous boldness she touches—then grasps your hand, and smooths it gently betwixt her own, and prys curiously into its make, and colour, as though it were silk of Damascus, or shawl of Cashmere. And when they see you even then, still sage, and gentle, the joyous girls will suddenly, and screamingly, and all at once, explain to each other that you are surely quite harmless, and innocent—a lion that makes no spring—a bear that never hugs, and upon this faith, one after the other, they will take your passive hand, and strive to explain it, and make it a theme, and a controversy. But the one—the fairest, and the sweetest of all, is yet the most timid; she shrinks from the daring deeds of her playmates, and seeks shelter behind their sleeves, and strives to screen her glowing consciousness from the eyes that look upon her; but her laughing sisters will have none of this cowardice—they vow that the fair one shall be their accomplice—shall share their dangers—shall touch the hand of the stranger; they seize her small wrist, and drag her forward by force, and at last, whilst yet she strives to turn away, and to cover up her whole soul under the folds of downcast eyelids, they vanquish her utmost strength—they vanquish your utmost modesty, and marry her hand to yours. The quick pulse springs from her fingers, and throbs like a whisper upon your listening palm. For an instant her large, timid eyes are upon you—in an instant they are shrouded again, and there comes a blush so burning, that the frightened girls stay their shrill laughter, as though they had played too perilously, and harmed their gentle sister. A moment and all with a sudden intelligence turn away, and fly like deer, yet soon again like deer they wheel round, and return, and stand, and gaze upon the danger, until they grow brave once more."

Our author was just the man to risk an adventure with the Bedouins, and accordingly we soon find him à bivouac in the midst of their tents, and afterwards their comrade in the desert.

"As long as you are journeying in the interior of the Desert you have no particular point to make for as your resting place. The endless sands yield nothing but small stunted shrubs—even these fail after the first two or three days, and from that time you pass over broad plains—you pass over newly reared hills—you pass through valleys that the storm of the last week has dug, and the hills, and the valleys are sand, sand, sand, still sand, and only sand, and sand, and sand again. The earth is so samely, that your eyes turn towards heaven—towards heaven, I mean, in the sense of sky. You look to the Sun, for he is your task-master, and by him you know the measure of the work that you have done, and the measure of the work that remains for you to do. He comes when you strike your tent in the early morning, and then, for the first hour of the day, as you move forward on your camel, he stands at your near side, and makes you know that the whole day's toil is before you—then for a while, and a long while, you see him no more, for you are veiled, and shrouded, and dare not look upon the greatness of his glory, but you know where he strides over head, by the touch of his flaming sword. No words are spoken, but your Arabs moan, your camels sigh, your skin glows, your shoulders ache, and for sights you see the pattern, and the web of the silk that veils your eyes, and the glare of the outer light. Time labours on—your skin glows, and your shoulders ache, your Arabs moan, your camels sigh, and you see the same pattern in the silk, and the same glare of light beyond, but conquering Time marches on, and by and by the descending Sun has compassed the Heaven, and now softly touches your right arm, and throws your lank shadow over the sand, right along on the way for Persia; then again you look upon his face, for his power is all veiled in his beauty, and the redness of flames has become the redness of roses—the fair, wavy cloud that fled in the morning now comes to his sight once more—comes blushing, yet still comes on—comes burning with blushes, yet hastens, and clings to his side. Then arrives your time for resting. The world about you is all your own, and there, where you will, you pitch your solitary tent; there is no living thing to dispute your choice. When at last the spot had been fixed upon, and we came to a halt, one of the Arabs would touch the chest of my camel, and utter

at the same time a peculiar gurgling sound; the beast instantly understood, and obeyed the sign, and slowly sunk under me 'till she brought her body to a level with the ground; then gladly enough I alighted; and the rest of the camels were unloaded, and turned loose to browse upon the shrubs of the Desert, where shrubs there were, or where these failed, to wait for the small quantity of food which was allowed them out of our stores."

We cannot resist copying the following portrait of a singular character:—

"Once during this passage my Arabs lost their way among the hills of loose sand that surrounded us, but after a while we were lucky enough to recover our right line of march. The same day we fell in with a Sheikh, the head of a family, that actually dwells at no great distance from this part of the desert, during nine months of the year. The man carried a match-lock, of which he was very proud; we stopped, and sat down and rested awhile, for the sake of a little talk: there was much that I should have liked to ask this man, but he could not understand Dhemetri's language, and the process of getting at his knowledge by double interpretation through my Arabs was unsatisfactory. I discovered, however, (and my Arabs knew of that fact) that this man and his family lived habitually for nine months in the year, without touching or seeing either bread or water. The stunted shrub growing at intervals through the sand in this part of the desert, is fed by the dews which fall at night, and enables the camel mares to yield a little milk, which furnishes the sole food and drink of their owner and his people. During the other three months (the hottest months, I suppose), even this resource fails, and then the Sheikh and his people are forced to pass into another district. You would ask me why the man should not remain always in that district which supplies him with water during three months of the year, but I don't know enough of Arab politics to answer the question. The Sheikh was not a good specimen of the effect produced by the diet to which he is subjected; he was very small, very spare, and sadly shrivelled—a poor, over-roasted snipe, a mere cinder of a man; I made him sit down by my side, and gave him a piece of bread and a cup of water from out of my goatskins. This was not very tempting drink to look at, for it had become turbid, and was deeply reddened by some colouring matter contained in the skins; but it kept its sweetness, and tasted like a strong decoction of Russia leather. The Sheikh sipped this, drop by drop, with ineffable relish, and rolled his eyes solemnly round between every draught, as though the drink were the drink of the Prophet, and had come from the seventh heaven. An inquiry about distances led to the discovery that this Sheikh had never heard of the division of time into hours; my Arabs themselves, I think, were rather surprised at this."

The following psychological phenomenon is note-worthy:—

"On the fifth day of my journey, the air above lay dead, and all the whole earth that I could reach with my utmost sight and keenest listening, was still and lifeless as some dispeopled and forgotten world, that rolls round and round in the heavens, through wasted floods of light. The sun, growing fiercer and fiercer, shone down more mightily now than ever on me he shone before, and as I drooped my head under his fire, and closed my eyes against the glare that surrounded me, I slowly fell asleep, for how many minutes or moments I cannot tell, but after a while I was gently awakened by a peal of church bells—my native bells—the innocent bells of Marlen, that never before sent forth their music beyond the Blaygon hills! My first idea naturally was, that I still remained fast under the power of a dream. I roused myself, and drew aside the silk that covered my eyes, and plunged my bare face into the light. Then at least I was well enough awakened, but still those old Marlen bells rung on, not ringing for joy, but properly, prosily, steadily, merrily ringing 'for church.' After a while the sound died away slowly; it happened that neither I nor any of my party had a watch by which to measure the exact time of its lasting, but it seemed to me that about ten minutes had passed before the bells ceased. I attributed the effect to the great heat of the sun, the perfect dryness of the clear air through which I moved, and the deep stillness of all around

me; it seemed to me that these causes, by occasioning a great tension, and consequent susceptibility, of the hearing organs, had rendered them liable to tingle under the passing touch of some mere memory, that must have swept across my brain in a moment of sleep. Since my return to England, it has been told me that like sounds have been heard at sea, and that the sailor becalmed under a vertical sun in the midst of the wide ocean, has listened in trembling wonder to the chime of his own village bells."

Now comes an awful chapter on Cairo and the Plague, so treated, that the author in a note apologises for the air of bravado that pervades it. It was the fearful visitation of the year 1835. From such causes there is more to dread than from the barbarism of the people, into such wise or unwise passiveness have they been schooled, either by dogmatism or despotism. But for this, it were a wonder how an European could pass in safety through their villages, since he cannot do so without being, though unconsciously, the occasion of much oppression. The ancient usage of the East requires the inhabitants to supply the wants of travellers,—a custom which yet prevails in a corrupt form, being exerted in favour of those travellers only who are deemed powerful enough to demand assistance. To offer to pay, therefore, is a certificate of weakness which ensures refusal, while the practice of intimidation is uniformly followed by concession. The supplies thus obtained are forced from the poor husbandman, who is frequently roused from his midnight sleep by the sudden coming of a government officer, who captures his mule or horse for the use of the traveller, and which, if the owner is not careful to follow, he is pretty sure to lose. A *prestige*, too, attends the European in his wanderings; since every Oriental peasant habitually and practically feels and believes that "in Vienna, or Petersburg, or London, there are four or five pale looking men who could pull down the star of the Pasha with shreds of paper and ink":—

"The people of the country knew, too, that Mehmet Ali was strong with the strength of the Europeans,—strong by his French General, his French tactics, and his English engines. Moreover, they saw that the person, the property, and even the dignity of the humblest European was guarded with the most careful solicitude. The consequence of all this was, that the people of Syria looked vaguely, but confidently, to Europe for fresh changes; many would fix upon some nation, France, or England, and steadfastly regard it as the arriving sovereign of Syria; those whose minds remained in doubt, equally contributed to this new state of public opinion, which no longer depended upon Religion, and ancient habits, but upon bare hopes, and fears. Every man wanted to know,—not who was his neighbour, but who was to be his ruler; whose feet he was to kiss, and by whom his feet were to be ultimately beaten. Treat your friend, says the proverb, as though he were one day to become your enemy, and your enemy as though he were one day to become your friend. The Syrians went further, and seemed inclined to treat every stranger as though he might one day become their Pasha. Such was the state of circumstances, and of feeling, which now for the first time had thoroughly opened the mind of Western Asia for the reception of Europeans and European ideas. The credit of the English especially was so great, that a good Mussulman flying from the conscription, or any other persecution, would come to seek for the formerly despised hat, that protection which the turban could no longer afford, and a man high in authority, (as for instance the Governor in command of Gaza,) would think that he had won a prize, or at all events a valuable lottery ticket, if he obtained a written approval of his conduct from a simple traveller."

With this sort of undefined, and, as it were, magic protection, our somewhat inconsiderate traveller found more than once his mere indiscretions of unexpected advantage, and was even appealed to, as a locomotive authority, to decide between Christian and Moslem in matters of proselytism and divorce, and also in behalf of some

poor Jew, who had been plundered in Safet, and claimed his interference as British subjects. On his arrival at Damascus, moreover, he obtained, from the same influence, privileges which the Christian natives desire in vain:—

"In the principal streets of Damascus there is a path for foot-passengers, which is raised, I think, a foot or two above the bridge road. Until the arrival of the British Consul-general, none but a Mussulman had been permitted to walk upon the upper way: Mr. Farren would not, of course, suffer that the humiliation of any such an exclusion should be submitted to by an Englishman, and I always walked upon the raised path as free and unmolested as if I had been striding through Bond Street: the old usage was, however, maintained with as much strictness as ever against the Christian Rayahs and Jews; not one of them could have set his foot upon the privileged path without endangering his life. I was lounging, one day, I remember, along 'the paths of the faithful,' when a Christian Rayah from the bridge-road below saluted me with such earnestness, and craved so anxiously to speak, and he spoken to, that he soon brought me to a halt; he had nothing to tell, except only the glory and exultation with which he saw a fellow Christian stand level with the imperious Mussulmans; perhaps he had been absent from the place for some time, for otherwise I hardly know how it could have happened that my exaltation was the first instance he had seen. His joy was great; so strong and strenuous was England (Lord Palmerston reigned in those days), that it was a pride and delight for a Syrian Christian to look up, and say that the Englishman's faith was his too. If I was vexed at all that I could not give the man a lift, and shake hands with him on level ground, there was no alloy to his pleasure; he followed me on, not looking to his own path, but keeping his eyes on me; he saw, as he thought, and said (for he came with me on to my quarters), the period of the Mahometan's absolute ascendancy—the beginning of the Christian's. He had so closely associated the insulting privilege of the path with actual dominion, that seeing it now in one instance abandoned, he looked for the quick coming of European troops. His lips only whispered, and that tremulously, but his fiery eyes spoke out their triumph in long and loud hurrahs! 'I, too, am a Christian. My foes are the foes of the English. We are all one people, and Christ is our King.'"

We must now, and with regret, part with Eöthen: the book is "as light as light," and lively as life. Yet are there in it passages and scenes which would make most men grave and solemn. Sometimes, too, the writer dashes, as it were by a fearful leap, into sublimity; but the transition is so sudden, that we are never sure of his sincerity. But every work must stand on its own merits; every author by his peculiar talent.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Description of the Skeleton of an Extinct Gigantic Sloth, Mylodon robustus, &c., by Richard Owen, F.R.S., &c.—The researches of geologists, or rather paleozoologists, have, within the last few years, brought to light the relics of a series of animals, of a size immensely beyond that of any previously known, and not confined to the class of reptiles. The gigantic bones recently brought from America, by Mr. Koch, and exhibited at the Egyptian Hall, are now deposited in the British Museum, where they have been scientifically put together, and form (notwithstanding the somewhat diminished size compared to the fictitious height given to them by Mr. Koch) one of the most extraordinary subjects in our National Museum, being, moreover, unique in Europe. The immense bones of birds, lately sent from New Zealand, belong to a (or, in fact, to several) species far larger than the largest ostrich; whilst it is only during the past season that zoologists and geologists have been startled by the discovery of the bones of a tortoise which must have measured 18 or 20 feet in length. One of the bones of this creature is now placed in a case in the British Museum, and by its side the corresponding bone of the Indian tortoise, which latter animal measures about two feet in length, and the relative proportions of the bones are nearly similar to those of a wren and a turkey.

The memoir before us contains a very elaborate description of another of these gigantic animals, belonging to the family of the sloths, but which, when living, was a perfect Titan compared to its present representatives. With a trunk shorter than that of the hippopotamus was combined a pelvis equalling in breadth, and exceeding in depth, that of an elephant! and a tail equalling the hind limbs in length, and proportionally as thick and strong, whilst its ribs were equal in breadth to those of the elephant, and its feet (especially of the anterior extremities) of enormous power. The bones of this creature were discovered in 1841 near Buenos Ayres on the fluvial deposits constituting the extensive plain intersected by the great Rio Plata. A memoir on such an object from the pen of Prof. Owen needs no praise at our hands. The subject, as the title-page notices, is treated not only with reference to the precise determination of the abstract structure of the various portions of the skeleton, but also with especial reference to the various habits indicated by each bone; and the whole is illustrated by a series of plates of great precision and delicacy.

The Arithmetic of Annuities, &c. by Edward Baylis. —This book gives the Northampton table, but merely as material for exercise. It has an immense number of examples, some worked, the rest with answers. At the head of each page, are as many running titles as there are distinct subjects in the page, in Roman letter; which is convenient for reference. The examples seem to be well explained. They are frequently swelled up into formidable questions by additions which produce no effect in the working; as, for instance, that George Robins described the estate, which it is the object of the question to value, as abounding in hill and dale, &c. If Mr. Baylis had given us the rule for reducing one of Robins's descriptions to the market truth, this would have been to the purpose. It is all well enough to make questions look interesting and practical: but we do not think that, if the sister of a public character falls into distress, and has an annuity, bought for her by subscription, her name and claims, the parties who interested themselves, the sum raised, &c., should be recorded among the examples for exercise in a professional work. Mr. Baylis should have imitated the medical journals, with their "A.B., aged 62, of a full habit," &c.

Arithmetical Questions, by W. McLeod.—Mr. McLeod is a teacher in the Model School at Battersea, and these exercises, which are simple questions, with their answers, are well arranged, and very likely to be useful to the teachers of young children.

Practical Grammar, by G. J. Holyoake.—One of the numerous works undertaking to "divest" their specific subjects "of difficulties;" this proposes to relieve "composition" of them. It has the merit of being readable and anecdotal. For the rest, its claims are modest, professing to contain "all that is necessary for ordinary purposes, and no more."

List of New Books.—The Bucolles, Georgics, and Æneid of Virgil, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl. (Dublin).—Halle's Psalms; or, Devotional Psalmody, by J. Burder and J. J. Waite, oblong. 2s. 6d. cl.—Welcome Words of Greeting and Farewell, 24mo. 3s. cl.—Memoirs of Mrs. Gibson, late of Newcastle-on-Tyne, by Francis West, 12mo. 4s. cl.—Bramhall's Works, Vol. III. 8vo. 14s. cl.—McEwen on the Types; Essay by McNeile, 2nd edit. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Protestant Thoughts in Rhyme, by Rev. B. W. Noel, 16mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—The Family of Bethany, 10th edit. 8vo. 5s. cl.—Paganism and Christianity, a Parallel between Rome Pagan and Rome Christian, by J. Stopford, new edit. 12mo. 7s. cl.—Gresley's (Rev. W.) Ecclesiasticus Anglicanus, 2nd edit. sm. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.—Prescott's History of the Conquest of Mexico, 2nd edit. 3 vols. 8vo. 2l. 2s. cl.—Selecta et Prescripta, Selections from Physicians' Prescriptions, 9th edit. 32mo. 5s. cl.—The Life of Dr. Bell, by Robert Southey, edited by Mrs. Southey, 3 vols. 8vo. 2l. 2s. cl.—Memoir of Dr. Hope, 3rd edit. 7s. cl.—Pocket Book of British Architecture, by A. Barrington, in sq. cl. case, with Manual, 4s. cl.—The Order of Daily Service, with the Musical Notation, as used in the Abbey of St. Peter, Westminster, by E. F. Pinbault, 16mo. 5s. hlf.-bd.—Geology, Introductory, Descriptive, and Practical, by Prof. Ansted, 2 vols. 8vo. 2l. 2s. cl.—Baptismal Fonts, Engravings and Descriptions by J. A. Paley, M.A. 8vo. 1l. 1s. cl.—The Act for the further Amendment of the Laws relating to the Poor in England, with the other Statutes affecting the Poor Law, by W. G. Lumley, 12mo. 6s. cl.—Sale's Koran, new edit. 8vo. 1l. 1s. cl.—Emily's Reward, by Mrs. Holland, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—The Cowslip, 19th edit. 18mo. swd. 1s. pl., 1s. 6d. col.—The Daisy, 22nd edit. 18mo. swd. 1s. pl., 1s. 6d. col.—A Brief View of Greek Philosophy, from the Age of Socrates to the coming of Christ, 6s. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.—George Herbert's Poems, 6s. 8vo. 3rd edit. 5s. cl.—Dr. Richardson's English Dictionary, 2nd edit. 2 vols. 4to. 5l. 5s. cl.—Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen, Vol. I. 18mo. 1s. 9d. swd.—De Lamartine's Jocelyn, translated, from the French, by K. Anstruther, royal 8vo. 1l. 1s. cl.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of a new society, called "The British Archaeological Association," was held at Canterbury, on Monday last, in the Town Hall of this fine old cathedral city. Few of our readers are, perhaps, aware of the existence of any such society, and still fewer, perhaps, of the objects which the Association professedly has in view. "The chief objects of the meeting," we are told in the printed prospectus of the General Committee, "are to promote a personal intercourse between antiquaries and historical inquirers, who reside in different parts of the country and abroad, and to afford a week's amusement and instruction by the reading and discussing of papers on antiquarian and historical subjects, before the different sections, and visiting and examining together the antiquities of the locality."

The first place pitched upon was Canterbury, a city rich in its antiquities—possessing a fine cathedral, exhibiting a long series of successive changes in the historical features of Gothic architecture—with many buildings fast going to decay, or more speedily ruin under the hand of ignorant restoration—with many interesting churches in its immediate vicinity, and adjoining downs, abounding in the rude grave-hillocks—the Saxon Barrows of English antiquaries.

Fast following on the heels of the prospectus, was a printed programme and list of the committee. The Dean and Canons of the Cathedral were to throw open, we were told, the whole of the Cathedral; the city authorities to place their Town Hall at the disposal of the members, and Lord Albert Conyngham to preside, and to open some Saxon Barrows in his park, at Bourne. Canterbury became a land of promise. Two or three hundred tickets were issued at a guinea a ticket; a long list of Vice-Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, and Committee-men then proclaimed, and the meeting divided into four sections:—1. Primeval; 2. Medieval; 3. Architectural; and 4. Historical. There was no local section, (a complete four sections in itself), but there was a local committee to arrange luncheons at the Lion, and dinners at the Fountain.

The first meeting of the General Committee took place at 2 o'clock, only one hour before the General Meeting. Very little had been done. Mr. Albert Way, one of the two Secretaries, was absent from ill health, and the members of the committee were at a loss what to do or how to begin. The ill effects of a want of good previous arrangement were soon found, and as readily admitted. The time crept on.

No man can tether time or tide.
The hour's appointed, Tam maun ride.

Three o'clock sounded from the Cathedral hard by. The President took the chair, and the meeting opened.

In a well-considered and not too long address, Lord Albert Conyngham explained the general objects of the Association. "We have come here," he said, "to investigate, to preserve, and illustrate our national monuments. We are combined to protect and save the noble edifices of our Gothic forefathers, and by the force of our example to induce the ruder inhabitants of this celebrated city to spare and protect the antiquarian objects so immediately around them, to take an architectural interest in their Cathedral, nor pass unheeded by the rude green hillocks of the dead—the Barrows in the park at Bourne, or on the Downs immediately adjoining." Mr. C. Roach Smith then read a paper on the general objects of the society, much better explained already in the prospectus of the Association, and in the address of the noble President. Mr. Smith's explanatory effusion over, Sir William Betham read a long paper on the 'Origin of Idolatry.' We trembled when we heard the name. Sir William began by enlarging on the usefulness of an antiquary—and the ill-nature of a critic in the *Quarterly Review*, who had called him a credulous gentleman—an Irishman, who wished to make everything Irish. Indignant at the accusation, Sir William exclaimed, "I am an Englishman," as boastfully as Sir Philip Sydney has exclaimed, "I am a Dudley by the mother's side; my chief boast is that I am a Dudley." This over, he enlarged on the Tower of Belus, on the supposed history of Semiramis; that Semiramis was an earlier kind of

Britannia, and that Laban spoke a different language from Jacob. Now this was all very well in its way, clever, capricious, and controversial; but it was thoroughly out of place. He had hearers, it is true, but he made no converts; and not a few were heard to exclaim, that "we had lost a day." What has all that he has been saying to do with our Cathedral, with the Barrows at Bourne, with the Dane-John, or the ruins of St. Augustine's? The good-natured face of the frank, kind, and attentive Mayor was seen to change, and the members of the corporation present to wonder "what it was all about."

The meeting now adjourned, and at six assembled for a dinner at the Fountain. About eighty-eight sat down: many ladies were present, and more topics from London were talked about than the doings of these new Canterbury Pilgrims. We think it right to record here, as Chaucer had a cook among his Canterbury company, that the dinner was not of the best, or the wines such as the Ward of Vintry afforded when the pilgrims of the poet left the Tabard, in Southwark, for what is known as Chaucer's Inn, in the High Street of Canterbury.

The Primeval section re-assembled at eight the same evening. The President in the chair.—A paper on Barrows was read by the Rev. J. Bathurst Deane: a paper of some interest, compiled with care, and as the barrows in Lord Albert Conyngham's park were to be opened early next day, at least appropriate. No down undisturbed by the plough throughout the whole of England, said Mr. Deane, but abounds in barrows. He dwelt for some time on cromlechs and cairns. "The cromlech," he said, "is the tomb of the rich man—the barrow the grave of the poor man. Barrows are so numerous throughout the whole of England, that it is not unfair to infer that the population of this country in early Saxon times was much greater than it has hitherto been supposed. The most beautiful objects found in barrows are cinerary urns, of which two specimens are on the table. These have zigzag ornaments upon them, and are of Saxon manufacture. The barrows in the park of our noble President mark the site, as I conceive, of a Saxon cemetery." Mr. Deane's paper was followed by a communication from Mr. Thomas Bateman, of Bakewell, on some Barrows newly opened in the neighbourhood of Bakewell, Derbyshire. The paper was a mere dry catalogue (faithful to the minutest particle) of the contents of the graves that were opened. Layers of rats' bones were found in many of these barrows, and much speculation was set afloat on this curious accompaniment of an early grave. The proceedings of the section for this evening were wound up by some remarks from Sir William Betham on that much-canvassed question—the object of the Round Towers in Ireland: Sir William giving it as his opinion, founded on the discovery of a skeleton beneath many layers of what he was pleased to call *concrete* in the Round Tower of Ardmore, that the Round Towers of Ireland were the sepulchres of the dead.

From the Town Hall the meeting now adjourned at eight o'clock to Barnes's Assembly Rooms, where there was a Conversation, with tea and coffee, and many curious *rubbings* done on prepared paper with a new kind of metallic rubber, prepared by Mr. Richardson, of Greenwich. A frame of gold trinkets belonging to Lord Albert Conyngham, and discovered at Bourne, was among the curiosities of the evening.

At nine next morning the High Street of Canterbury was alive with carriages of every kind, ready to convey the members of the Association to Breach Downs, near Barham, about eight miles from Canterbury, a little off the Dover Road, where the Saxon barrows are situated. On arriving at the scene of antiquarian expectation, we found eight barrows already laid open within five inches of the deposit. This was a prudent precaution, for much time had been lost in the spade and pick-axe work so necessary on this occasion. The first grave raised expectation to the fever-point. The thigh bones of a human skeleton were first revealed; and then, after a little careful raking and scraping, a few beads of glass and pottery—blue, green, and red. Other curiosities were discovered, of no great consequence to the uneducated eye, but rich material for antiquarian ingenuity and geological hypothesis.

At this period, about half-past ten, the sky became cloudy, and a thick mist ended in a heavy rain. Umbrellas were in request, and for a time ladies allowed their curiosity to damp their bonnets, but at last were obliged to take refuge in a windmill hard by, and in a peasant's cottage not far distant. No rain, however, could allay the enthusiasm of antiquarian ardour, and many members of the Association stood over or toiled at their favourite pursuit as if the sun was shining above, in all the golden splendour of a season "tween May and June." So much patient perseverance deserved some reward; a corroded knife-blade repaid curiosity to the full for an out-and-out wetting, and no true antiquary was heard to express a regret but for the sake of the ladies who were present.

The position of these barrows is very striking: they lie on a piece of ground overlooking a rich cultivated country on either side; the lands around have all been broken by the plough, but this would seem as if it had been left untouched to realize that picture in 'The Seasons' commemorated by Hazlitt in his contrast between Thomson and Bloomfield. But Thomson's hillock round which the sheep were seen to run was a Roman encampment, and our hillocks are Saxon barrows, such as Gray could have described, had he added another stanza to his 'Elegy.'

Lord Albert Conyngham had provided a luncheon for the members of the Association; and from the Downs, near Barham, the meeting set off for his Lordship's seat, near Bourne. From the house they adjourned to a paddock off the park, where four Saxon barrows were laid open. In one of these graves was discovered a small urn, about eight inches high, of red pottery ware, a glass of thin green manufacture, and two or three small bronze ornaments, the clasps of a purse as was conjectured by Mr. C. Roach Smith and other members of the Association, who examine and collect curiosities of this description.

The Dean of Hereford was in the chair at the evening meeting, and the proceedings commenced by some remarks, made by the Dean, on certain barrows in Wiltshire. He had found, he said, in one grave twelve skeletons arranged in a circle, with a small urn, of which he exhibited a drawing, in the centre of the twenty-four human feet.—Mr. Pettigrew was then called upon by the President to offer any remarks he had to make on the bones discovered in the barrows opened that day. He began by throwing, not intentionally we may suppose, certain doubts on the discoveries. He held in his hand, he said, two thigh bones, discovered in the barrows on Breach Downs, not fifty years buried. (Talk of the fifth or sixth century for the period of these barrows, the period assigned by the Secretary of the Association, and contrast it with the year 1796, within so many of our recollections!)—Dr. Buckland followed Mr. Pettigrew, he had never examined any really Saxon barrows before, through his whole twenty years' experience as a public professor. The outward indication of these barrows was comparatively slight; the graves in Lord Albert's paddock was the cheapest possible form of burial. No great stress was to be laid on the appearance of the bones,—he had seen bones before the creation of man, still perfect and entire; many Roman bones were better preserved than those in our churchyards after fifty years deposit. The decay of the bone is no proof of age, or the solidity of the bone no proof of recent interment. The teeth of some of the skeletons discovered were the sharp teeth of adults, others were the teeth of grown-up persons, and their ground down appearance was to be accounted for by their food, the pease and beans on which they fed. The teeth of our soldiers who fell in the wars of the Roses, are all of this ground condition. Nor were we to lay any stress on the absence of any hair in the graves opened this morning; braids of Roman hair were still preserved; and we must attribute the preservation or the decay altogether to the soil or substance in which the body is laid. He had heard, he said, that at one of the previous openings in Breach Downs a mouse's nest was discovered at the bottom of the grave. He was told, moreover, that the bones of rats and mice are not uncommon in these barrows; we must attribute their deposit there to the hoarding nature of those animals, of which some

curious specimens are in the museum of *Nenia* Douglas, now in the possession of his grandson, Dr. Faussett, a museum in the neighbourhood, open it is understood, to the members of this Association. At the bottom of one of these graves he had discovered a small portion of surface mould, which he was led at first to believe was thrown there by our Saxon forefathers, just as we do now at our interments, when we commit ashes to ashes, and dust to dust, but he found, as he went on, two earth-worms six inches long, and infinitely obliged was he to these worms that had come down to devour this Saxon. These worms had brought down this surface mould with them, and the piece which he held in his hand was drilled by their bodies, so that a quill might readily be passed through them. These worms at six feet beneath the surface were breathing air; and the water, atmospheric air, and carbonic acid, brought down to these graves, accounted, he thought, altogether for the decay and disappearance of these bones.

A paper was then read by Mr. Sydenham 'On the Kimmeridge Coal Money found in Dorsetshire.' He referred to the theories of Mr. Miles, and laid before the Association several specimens of this antiquarian puzzle, which Dr. Buckland pronounced to be the pierced blocks at the bottom of a turner's wheel, and he had himself seen a vase or urn found in a grave with one of these blocks attached to it. Other papers were then read—'On Roman Pottery at Dymchurch,' 'On the landing of Julius Cæsar,' &c., Sir William Betham winding up the proceedings of the evening, by some observations on Celts or Kelts, which he said were carpenters' adzes, not warriors' battle-axes. Thus the Kimmeridge Coal Money becomes a turner's implement, and the Celt of our English antiquaries, a carpenter's tool.

At the Morning Medieval Section on Wednesday, Archdeacon Burney took the chair. Mr. Hatcher, of Salisbury, exhibited a model of Old Sarum, and W. H. Blaauw, Esq., of Beechland, a bronze relic from the field of the battle of Lewes, with the arms of Richard, King of the Romans, upon it. Dr. Spry exhibited a drawing of a fresco (?) in Lenham Church, and the Rev. Mr. Hartshorne some specimens of needle-work of the reign of Edward III. Mr. Hartshorne directed the particular attention of the ladies present to this needle-work, and expressed a hope that he might see our ladies once again employed in this interesting labour, instead of the stupid repetitions they make so often in German wool. Mr. Woolaston made some remarks on the meditated removal of a fresco (?) on the walls of East Wickham Church, to be replaced by a family tablet (we had thought such desecration was out of date), and urgently called upon the Association to protect the painting from destruction. Mr. Woolaston exhibited a drawing of the fresco, and a committee of preservation was nominated to communicate with the proper authorities. Mr. Planché read a communication from Mr. Lower, of Lewes, 'On the Buckle,' the badge of the noble family of Pelham, and Mr. Stapleton, a genealogical paper full of dates, 'On the Counts of Guisnes and the ancient Earls of Oxford.' This was by far the best considered paper in the whole series of communications—it was full of research, but unfortunately beyond his auditory. We hope Mr. Stapleton will allow his paper to be printed.

At the Architectural Section in the evening, the President, Prof. Willis, read a translation which he had made of the account of Canterbury Cathedral, written in 1174, by one Gervase, a monk of Canterbury. He exhibited, at the same time, a block plan of the cathedral, and contrasted, as he went on, the building described by Gervase, with the building as we now see it. His style of delivery—his matter and his manner were equally pleasing. Architects, it is true, were unwilling to hear what they knew, or may be thought to have known pretty well before, but the general auditory were pleased, and listened throughout with the greatest attention. A communication from Mr. Repton was read, containing some remarks on Roman and Saxon Columns, with details too small to be exhibited; and Mr. Godwin exhibited a curious collection of Masons' marks, which he had copied from the cathedrals of Cologne, Strasbourg, Gloucester, and Canterbury. He had found, he said, the same marks in use in all coun-

tries; they were still fresh on our cathedral walls; and in a conversation with a mason, that morning at work in Canterbury Cathedral, he found that many masons (all who were Freemasons) had their mystic marks handed down from generation to generation—the masons he, Mr. Godwin, had conversed with, had got his mark from his father, and he again from his grandfather.

The proceedings of the day ended with a Conversation. The dignitaries of the church, the mayor and the corporation, were one and all attentive. We shall defer any observations we may have to make, on the progress and prospects of this Association, till our next number. The meeting closes this day.

ON EXPLOSIONS AND EXPLOSIVE COMPOUNDS.

THE claims lately set up by Captain Warner, and the experiment made off Brighton, to establish those claims, have excited public attention in no inconsiderable degree. There can be no doubt that if Captain Warner possesses the power which he professes to have under his command, of striking and blowing up a vessel or a fort, at the distance of five miles, his secret must be worth knowing, although it may not, and certainly would not be worth paying for at the price named. The secret, however, does not consist in the power to blow up the ship or fort, but in the asserted power to reach it at almost any distance, great or small, with perfect certainty. Various attempts have been made at explaining the experiment in question, into which, however, we do not intend to enter, as the previous communication which Captain Warner had with the ship which he was to destroy, and the possibility of communicating with it even at the moment of explosion, must render the whole affair unsatisfactory, if not suspicious. We shall be more justified in examining and theorizing on this subject when the Captain shall have blown up a vessel at the distance of five miles, with which he has had no previous communication, according to the offer which he has since made to Government.

What, however, seems to have attracted most attention in the experiment off Brighton is the explosive power employed. Many people seem to have imagined that there was nothing known to chemists more powerful than gunpowder, which was, to all appearance, inadequate to produce the effect described. We have therefore been induced to put together a few remarks concerning the nature of explosive compounds of all kinds, not with a view to explain Captain Warner's invention, which we do not profess to be able to do, but to show that at least one part of it, the mere destruction of the object of attack, is easier than is generally thought.

With regard to explosions we ought perhaps to distinguish between *natural*, such as those of thunder, volcanoes, and earthquakes, together with inferior explosions arising from hard frosts; and *artificial*, or such as are produced by gunpowder and other chemical admixtures. We, however, shall not tie ourselves to any such divisions, as we should be obliged to make numerous subdivisions, according to the different causes of explosions.

One of the most astounding natural explosions, is that concussion of the air called thunder, which follows up the motion of the electric fluid. As the cause of the lightning taking the zigzag form, and the rolling of the thunder is not known to all, it will not be out of place to give the most probable explanation. The electric spark travels first in a straight line through the air, but meets with opposition. The air is compressed at the sides and in front, and indeed to such an extent as at last to hinder the spark from continuing its natural course; it is therefore turned off to the side, proceeds as at first, meets with the same impediment, which it is unable to conquer, and is thus obliged to take the zigzag form. The compressed air, rushing from both sides in order to fill up the vacuum, meets in the centre, and clashes with great violence; the vacuum at the angles of the zigzag course being greater and the air being more compressed than in the straight lines, the explosion at the points is naturally greater, and is the cause of the rolling noise of the thunder.

The power of steam, and the violent explosions connected with it, are well known. When water is suddenly converted into steam, or is resolved into

its elements, oxygen and hydrogen, the consequence is an explosion. Thus, if water be thrown on melted copper, the explosion is so violent as to exceed any thing which we can imagine, and the most frightful accidents have occurred from a cause apparently so slight, as one of the workmen spitting into the furnace where copper was melting, arising from the sudden decomposition of the water, which was thus converted into gaseous matter. Terrible accidents of the kind have sometimes happened in foundries, when large quantities of melted metal had been poured into wet or damp moulds. In these cases the sudden expansion and decomposition of the steam has thrown out the metal with great violence. Even the chemical formation of water is accompanied with violent explosions. If we introduce into a phial one-third of hydrogen gas, and two-thirds of atmospheric air, consisting, as is well known, of 77 parts of nitrogen, and 23 of oxygen, and bring a light to the orifice, a loud explosion will take place. These gases, when inflamed, expand considerably, but instantly after this they combine with each other, and contract into an exceedingly narrow compass. The air rushing into the bottle to fill up the empty space, strikes against the inner sides and causes the report. By the combustion the oxygen and hydrogen are converted into water, the bulk of which is less than the one-thousandth part of the original bulk of the gases.

There are likewise gaseous combinations of hydrogen with carbon in different proportions, familiarly known as fire-damp and gas, which also have the property of exploding when mixed with air and heated to a certain degree. The proper name for fire-damp is light carburetted hydrogen; it issues in considerable quantities from fissures in the earth, coming often from subterranean deposits of coal. This gas does not explode at all when mixed with small quantities of air, nor with a very large proportion; while when mixed with seven times its volume of air it explodes powerfully. It must be heated to a high temperature before it ignites, and the mischief occasioned in mines by its explosion is not alone owing to the burns inflicted upon the workmen, but also to the violent concussion of the air, and the quantity of carbonic acid, partly contained in the fire-damp before ignition, and partly formed during ignition, which of itself would be sufficient to destroy life. Sir Humphry Davy discovered that flame could not be communicated to an explosive mixture of carburetted hydrogen and air through a narrow tube, because the cooling influence of the sides of the tube prevented the gaseous mixture contained in it from ever rising to the high temperature of ignition; upon which observation he founded his valuable invention of the safety-lamp.

The mixture of sulphur, charcoal, and nitre, called gunpowder, is well known. The elastic fluid produced by the firing of gunpowder is found, by experiment, to occupy a space at least 244 times greater than that taken up by the powder from which it was originally obtained. But from the heat generated during its explosion, this elastic fluid is rarefied to upwards of four times its former bulk. The expansive force of this fluid is therefore, at the moment of conflagration, 1,000 times greater than that of common air. The granulation of gunpowder increases its explosive force. A charge is thus made sufficiently porous to allow flame to penetrate it, and to kindle every grain composing it at the same time. A mixture of three parts of nitre, two of dry carbonate of potash, and one of sulphur, forms what is called *pulvis fulminans*, which, heated gently till it enters into fusion, inflames suddenly, and explodes with a deafening report. The violence of the explosion is caused by the reaction between the sulphur and the nitre being instantaneous, from their fusion and perfect intermixture, and the consequent sudden formation of a considerable quantity of nitrogen gas from the decomposition of the nitre.

Since chlorate of potash has been made the object of a tolerably extensive manufacture, in consequence of its application in making matches for procuring instantaneous light, and a detonating powder for fire-arms, it has become generally known. It deflagrates on hot cinders, like nitre, but with more violence. When ground together with sul-

phur or phosphorus, it detonates with great violence, and not without some danger to the operator. Mixed with sugar, and struck with the hammer upon the anvil, it explodes violently. A mixture of sugar or starch, with chlorate of potash, is readily inflamed by a drop of sulphuric acid, and this experiment is the basis of the preparation of the oxygenated matches, the ends of which are dipped into a well-stoppered phial, containing asbestos, moistened with oil of vitriol. A mixture, which, when dry, inflames by percussion, and which is applied to lucifer matches, is composed of this salt, sulphur, and charcoal. One of the simplest receipts for this percussion powder consists in washing out the nitre from 10 parts of gunpowder, with water, and mixing the residue intimately, while still moist, with $5\frac{1}{2}$ parts of chlorate of potash, in an extremely fine powder. This mixture is highly inflammable when dry, and it is, therefore, dangerous to preserve it in that state.

Substances which decompose water freely, at the same time liberating a gas, must be reckoned among explosive powers. Among this class may be reckoned potassium and sodium, the elements of potash and soda, which have such an affinity to the oxygen of water as to be able to separate its elements, to combine with its oxygen, and to liberate its hydrogen. If we throw a small piece of potassium on water, it takes fire, diminishes more and more, and at last disappears in the water, with an explosion, hydrogen being at the same time given off. If a hole be made in a rock, so as to admit of some water and potassium, and the opening be immediately closed, the rock will in a very short time be burst, and at an expense not much greater than if it were effected by means of gunpowder. The same must, of course, also take place, if we inclose some potassium in a shell, and contrive by some mechanism not to allow the water to touch it till it has reached its destination, where the destructive properties of it would be immediately apparent.

One of the most formidable and one of the most dangerous explosive compounds known to the chemist is a substance called chloride of nitrogen. It is so dangerous to handle, that chemists have been contented to take for granted those powers assigned to it by its original discoverers. The examination of this substance caused its discoverer, Dulong, a severe mutilation of his fingers and the loss of an eye, and Sir H. Davy, who continued the experiment, was wounded in the eye by a sudden explosion. The greatest care should be taken in its preparation, the face should be protected by a sheet of iron gauze, and the hands by thick woollen gloves. For its preparation a glass vessel is filled with a not completely saturated solution of sal ammoniac in water, and inverted in a basin filled with the same solution. Chlorine is introduced into the bell, and is by degrees absorbed, the fluid at the same time receiving a yellow tinge. The formation of oily drops is perceived on the surface, which collect and sink to the bottom, forming a deep yellow oily liquid. This is chloride of nitrogen. At common temperatures the formation of it takes place but slowly, but when the solution of sal ammoniac in water is heated to 90° Fah. the action begins very quickly, and the operation is speedily completed. It explodes, producing a very loud detonation at a temperature immediately below that of boiling water (212° Fah.), shattering to pieces wood, glass, or iron. In order to show most simply, and in the least dangerous manner, the explosive powers of this compound, we may allow a drop of it to be sucked up by blotting paper, and on bringing it quickly to the light it will explode with a louder report than that of a rifle. In order to show its destructive properties we need only adduce the following experiment. If we were to take a cup, set it on a piece of board on the floor, and drop a single drop of chloride of nitrogen into it, and cover it with water; the mixture touched with a piece of hot iron would explode, the cup be broken in pieces, the water thrown about, and the piece of the cup on which the chloride of nitrogen lay be driven deep into the board. The chloride of nitrogen is resolved into chlorine and nitrogen gases, the instantaneous production of which, accompanied by heat and light, is the cause of the violence of the explosion. It is, however, not always necessary to heat it to cause it to explode, for if we touch it

with a stick, dipped into oil of turpentine or nut oil, with amber, myrrh, India-rubber, and a few other substances, the same will take place. A compound analogous to this is iodide of nitrogen, which explodes with nearly as much violence as the chloride, but is more dangerous because less governable. More powerful in its effects, and a little better known than chloride or iodide of nitrogen, is the fulminate of silver. It is prepared by taking 100 grains of melted and finely pounded nitrate of silver, putting them into a roomy glass, pouring one ounce of lukewarm alcohol upon them, stirring them well together, and then pouring one ounce of fuming nitric acid into the glass. Violent effervescence takes place, and when the black powder deposited at the bottom of the glass becomes white, cold water poured into the glass will cause all action to cease. The whole operation is completed in a few minutes, and one of the chief precautions in making it, is to take a high and roomy glass, for explosions often happen when the liquid runs over, and a portion of the fulminate adheres to the glass. The powder is now to be washed on to the filter by means of water, and great care is to be taken that it be not touched with any hard substance, as the mere contact of a glass rod with the powder has caused it to explode, and has more than once cost the life of the operator. The powder must be dried by very gentle heat, and spread on blotting paper, with about two grains on each piece. The electric spark, hard pressure, a blow of the hammer, or contact with a glass rod dipped into a solution of concentrated sulphuric acid, are sufficient to ignite it, causing it to explode.

Fulminate of mercury is similar to the former, though not quite so powerful. It crystallizes in fine silky needles, detonates violently by percussion, or when rubbed between hard bodies; in the flame of the candle it deflagrates with a feeble explosion. Mixed intimately with six times its weight of nitre, it forms percussion powder, which is introduced in the state of a paste with water into the copper caps. The daily papers state, that M. Jobbard, of Brussels, who has devoted much attention to pyrotechnic works, has communicated to the French government what he states to be the composition of Capt. Warner's destructive power. It consists, says he, of a Congreve rocket made in this way: the head of it is composed of a hollow iron cone, of great strength, containing a kilogramme of fulminate of mercury, on which is placed the usual charge of the rocket, of which the body is twice as long as those generally in use. He discharges his projectile from a directing tube from the porthole of the vessel, and on a level with the water, so that his projectile, skimming along the waves, which support a part of its weight, fixes itself in the side of the enemy's vessel, where it bursts when the fire reaches the fulminating powder, and making an immense opening in it, sinks it at once. The proper range of this rocket is three or four miles, but Capt. Warner imagines he can send it five or six, by discharging it from a cannon. He does not say that he will attain his object in the first attempt, but he will try on until he succeeds.

Fulminate of gold is a body analogous to the two former, but being inferior in its effects, and far more costly, it will not be made use of. A substance scarcely inferior to chloride of nitrogen or fulminate of silver is a combination of oxide of silver with ammonia, the so called ammoniacate of silver. It is of a highly dangerous character, owing to the facility with which it explodes. It may be formed by dissolving nitrate of silver in ammonia, and precipitating the liquor by a slight excess of potash. If this substance be pressed by a hard body, while still in a moist state, it explodes with very great violence; when dry, the touch of a feather is sufficient to cause it to fulminate. The explosion is occasioned by the reduction of the oxide of silver to metallic silver, by the combustion of its oxygen with the hydrogen of the ammonia, and the consequent evolution of nitrogen gas.

We have now enumerated the chief explosive substances, many of which would, of course, be useless in a destructive point of view. Indeed, it is very remarkable, that some of these explosive compounds, which burn far more rapidly than gunpowder, such as fulminate of silver and mercury,

are not adapted for the movement of projectiles. Their action in exploding is violent, but local; if substituted for gunpowder, in charging firearms, they would shatter them to pieces, and not project the ball. The idea of destroying ships and forts by such destructive compounds is by no means new, although those which are most likely to answer have not been tried. We need wonder at nothing since Archimedes seriously proposed to destroy the enemy's fleet by burning lenses. The American, Robert Fulton, proposed the making of iron cylinders, which were to be filled, as far as we recollect, partly with a combustible compound, and partly with clockwork connected with a fuse, which in a certain time was to be brought into contact with the compound. Two of these so called torpedoes were connected by means of a rope, and floated in the direction of the hostile ship. The tide was to carry it towards the prow of the ship, which would then be encircled and destroyed as soon as the combustibles were ignited. The plan however failed, as was to be expected, owing to the uncertainty of the machine reaching its destination. David Bucknell invented a submarine vessel, in which a man might pass a considerable distance under water, and by means of this and an accompanying magazine of artillery, a bold attempt was made to blow up a British vessel in the harbour of New York during the time of the American war. This daring scheme of mischief failed, owing to the impossibility of attaching the magazine to the bottom of the ship by means of a sharp iron screw, which passed out from the top of the diving machine, and communicated with the inside by a waterjoint, being provided with a crank at its lower end, by which the engineer was to drive it into the ship's bottom. The well known Sir W. Congreve proposed to destroy towns and forts by the aid of kites. They were to be made of canvas, and of a very large size, so as to be able to carry very great weights. To the kite was attached a strong rope, and it was let fly on a windy day. When the kite had reached its place of destination over the fort, a shell, weighing a pound, with a fuse, was to be sent up, after the fashion in which boys send up paper messengers. When it reached the top of the kite, and stood over the devoted fort, the string which connected it with the rope of the kite, was to catch fire on reaching some combustible matter at the top, and the shell, thus released, was to fall into the midst of the besieged place. We are not aware whether the plan was ever tried.

Such are some of the modes which have been proposed from time to time for the purposes of destruction. We do not think that the more powerful compounds, known to the chemist, have been tried to any great extent. It is more than probable that one of the explosive agents, which we have mentioned, has been employed by Capt. Warner; and indeed this part of the experiment, as we have before observed, presents no difficulty. The power of projection, or "the long range," is a very different question, and we wait for proof by experiment; till then, we take leave of the subject, having shown, as we think, that sufficient attention has not been paid to the number and power of the explosive agents already known to chemical art.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Campo Doleino, on the Italian declivity of the Splügen, Aug. 25, 1844.

You may be surprised to receive a letter from this desolate station, but to the elements, and not my wish, you owe it. I have been obliged to take up my quarters here since last night, in consequence of one of the most terrific storms that for years has desolated the Alpine passes. I got on very well along the Rhine, passed a day at Zurich, which I left last Friday, and reached the village of Splügen, at the Swiss base of the pass yesterday. On entering the valley, I was struck by a phenomenon which I had remarked in 1839, at Altorf, the day which preceded the storm that rendered the St. Gothard so long intransitable—a gust of hot air coming over the peaks from the Italian side. Scarcely had we started, at two, from Splügen, when it began to rain violently, and continued until we got to the Austrian Dogana, where we were most

unnecessarily detained an hour, being only two passengers. We had scarcely left it when it began to thunder terrifically, and the rain to descend, not in torrents, but in water spouts. The storm was at its height when we reached the village of Pianozzo, and, during the long zigzag descent into the valley of the Lira, it presented a scene of grandeur impossible to describe—the lightning playing from peak to peak—every rill turned into a torrent—every hollow in the almost vertical face of the rocks on each side changed into a cascade, among which that of the Medesimo presented one of the finest spectacles of Alpine scenery ever beheld. We changed horses here, and had proceeded about a mile towards Chiavenna, when my attention was suddenly arrested by a prolonged sound, something between that of rolling thunder and the noise that accompanies an earthquake, when suddenly turning a corner, the torrent of the Gadera, which issues from an almost vertical ravine, and passes the road we had before us, under a bridge, was seen rolling down. Immense blocks of rock, more like a stone avalanche, had already filled up the arch, and covered the road with debris. It was now 7 p.m., night was fast setting in, and it only remained to turn the coach, and get back to this station. In such a steep road, which was also narrow, this required some time; when to our horror, and scarcely 100 yards behind us, another torrent, scarcely inferior in size to the Gadera, was seen rushing over the road, and thus intercepting our retreat, and, as it made the road its bed, threatening to carry the coach and horses, now at a standstill, into the torrent of the Lira, some hundred feet beneath. I succeeded in getting under a large detached block of rock close by the road side; but here another danger awaited me, the lightning had struck one of the pinnacles above, and detached a mass of rock, which produced in its fall an avalanche of stones, that in its descent, passed scarcely twenty-five yards from where I was. The noise of this avalanche was more terrific than I can find words to express. Thus obliged to change my quarters, luckily the torrential rain began to abate, and in about half an hour, the torrent that intercepted our retreat to Campo Doleino to diminish; but it had changed its direction, cutting straight across the road, on which it had raised a mound of debris, to cross which it required some nerve, as you will understand when I tell you, that the side of the road overlooking the valley of the Lira is lined with stone columns, between which are stretched wooden rails, to prevent vehicles falling over the precipice. The torrent, in running across the road, occupied the width of three intercolumnar spaces, about forty feet; and in its descent had carried away the lowermost of the wooden rails, and reached to the level at which they were placed—the upper rails were entire, and the only way to cross them was astride, wriggling oneself over the best way I could, and which I did, my knees being in the mass of mud, and silt, and torrent rushing under me. Thank God I effected this in safety; and after traversing half a dozen torrents which presented no danger, got here about 9 o'clock, severely bruised and cut. The storm having abated towards midnight, we got a part of our luggage from the coach, and the rest has been brought back here; the coach is safe; but the road on each side of where it stands is either entirely carried away or covered with a moraine of stones. Up to this moment we are completely insulated, and have only been able to know the effects of the storm for about a mile on either side of this hamlet, in which extent two bridges have been carried away, and nearly one quarter of the road rendered intransitable, so that at the moment I write, I have no idea when I shall be released from my imprisonment, although I hope I shall be able to proceed on foot to Chiavenna, in a couple of days; for as to carriages, weeks, if not months, will be required to effect such repairs of the road as will allow of their passing.

I never recollect, even within the Tropics, to have witnessed such a storm as that of last night, and which is still raging with unabated fury. The thunder and lightning have been incessant, and the rain in torrents has not ceased an instant. You may recollect the position of this miserable hostelry—in a small plain on the left bank of the Lira torrent, and at the foot of a nearly vertical peak of transi-

tion slate, the little valley or campo of Doleino is surrounded on every side by precipices of the same rock, cut into ravines by torrents; these are generally empty, but at present every ravine is a cascade, and, looking out of the room from which I write, I have three before me. During the night the effect of these cascades, lighted by the flashes of vivid lightning, was very grand—to which the peals of thunder, which shook the peaks around, gave a sensation of awe and terror.

I trust this storm will not have extended to the other passes of the Alps. When I crossed the Rhine, and before this rain, its bed was covered, so that its ravages are to be apprehended below Coire, and I should not be astonished to hear of its breaking the dykes about Ragatz and Sargans. * * *

I was here interrupted by one of the most awful peals of thunder I ever heard. One of the effects of which was to bring the wind suddenly round to the north, accompanied by a fall of snow, and which shortly afterwards was succeeded by such a fine blue sky, that I determined at all risks to get on to Chiavenna, accompanied by four guides, to carry our bags and ladders. We started at 4 p.m., my German fellow-traveller and myself, and after a very rude march of five hours, got into that picturesque old town, the moon shining over the valley, with all the brilliancy of an Italian sky—being the first travellers who had arrived. We were informed that most melancholy reports of the fate of our diligence had gone on before us to Milan—so that we shall be probably drowned or crushed by an avalanche of boulders in the next Gazette. Our pedestrian journey was not unattended with difficulty, and even dangers: in one place, where a bridge had been carried away, it was necessary to cross the torrent, at a depth of forty feet below us, by means of a ladder thrown horizontally across with a plank laid on it; and in another, where this mode of traversing could not be practised, to climb the face of an almost vertical precipice, to cross the torrent where it poured itself down in a cascade from the plain above. Lord Stanhope had just arrived at Chiavenna, from exploring the pass of the Stelvio, and was of course imprisoned there, for the Splügen road cannot possibly be opened for carriages for eight or ten days.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE House of Commons having brought its labours of the Session to a close, we may mention a few of the Notices which it has left on the books, to be dealt with next Session, connected with subjects falling more immediately within our specialty.—Mr. Hume has recorded a motion for a select committee, "to inquire whether the Royal Academy has been favourable or injurious to the progress of Fine Art in this country."—Mr. Wyse's motion, which we announced to our readers as having been for the present withdrawn, to be re-presented in a more extended form, takes the following shape in the Notice-book:—"To provide Galleries for the reception of Works of Art, and for National Antiquities, and to constitute a commission for the Conservation of National Monuments."—The same member will move "to take immediate measures for the extension and improvement of Academical, Collegiate, and University education in Ireland."—We have seen, of late, with pleasure, a disposition, both within and without the walls of Parliament, to preserve and extend the natural play-grounds of the toiling poor—to keep alive the old fountains, and create new ones, at which the pent population of cities may take a draught of health, after the week's fever, in the form of the unsullied sunshine and the untainted breeze. We hail every practical affirmation of the importance of bringing the hearts and lungs of the people into occasional communication with the freshening influences of nature—of letting their minds and bodies taste, as often as may be, of her sweetness—that lies on the open hills, and lurks in the free glades and green valleys, and makes summer everywhere, save where the monster of society has conquered and expelled her—throwing out suburbs to the "immemorial fields," and pushing his outworks far into the country, to drive her beyond the busy man's reach. The cheap railway-excursions which have given to thousands an unaccustomed taste of the present summer, (their price letting in an immense class who never moved far before)—which have taken multi-

tudes far out into the haunts of England's natural beauty—set them down on that dreamland of many, the sea-shore—given the provincial his long-desired and denied glimpse of London—and even opened for thousands of astonished visitors a day's vision of France—tossing them well on the waters, and returning them to their homes with an important sense of far travel achieved,—fresh life in their veins and a pleasant memory in their hearts—these excursions, we say, are worth noting, as facts bearing on higher interests than the economies of a railway company:—and we heartily wish prosperity and great returns to every one of them, where the regulations for the safety and feelings of the happy crowds are duly regarded, and the contract with the humble faithfully kept.—Reminding, then, the guardians of such popular interests, that Lord Worsley's Bill for the inclosure of Commons is again on the Notice-book, and will want watching, we proceed to mention such steps (parliamentary or of other kinds), in a pleasanter direction, as have here and there caught our attention. It gives us pleasure to record an act of liberality on the part of the Duke of Norfolk, in favour of the toiling classes of the busy town of Sheffield. His Grace has promised, on the falling in of a few leases which stand in the way, to give up fifty acres of his land for a pleasure ground to be laid out for their recreation. The town-council of Birmingham has opened a communication with government, in the view of obtaining a grant towards providing public walks, in the same benevolent spirit. Mr. John O'Brien has given notice to Parliament of his intention to move, next session, for a select committee "to inquire into the right of the citizens of Limerick to the use and occupation of the King's Island, in the river Shannon, for the purposes of exercise and recreation, as formerly possessed by them."

A Society for the Preservation of Ancient Footpaths has saved the labouring classes of Manchester many a shady lane and pleasant meadow path, on which the genius of monopoly had set his eye. In the same town, it is now proposed to raise by subscription a sum of 50,000*l.*, for the purchase of fields or gardens, to make fresh walks and pleasure-grounds for the manufacturing population. To this fund Sir Robert Peel has contributed most liberally, as appears by the following letter addressed to the secretaries—a letter worthy to be recorded here, for its pleasant and graceful references to early, though past, associations.

Whitehall, Sept. 7.

Gentlemen,—Although I have no longer any personal connection with the town of Manchester, by property or other local tie, yet, considering Manchester to be the metropolis of a district, to the industry of which I and my family are under very deep obligations, and most heartily approving of the wise and benevolent design to provide for those who are doomed to almost incessant toil the means of healthful recreation and harmless enjoyment, I willingly contribute to the furtherance of that design, and offer my cordial wishes for its success. I request my name may be added to the subscription which has been commenced for this purpose, for the sum of 1,000*l.*

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

ROBERT PEELE.

But there is a subject of even more importance to the toiling poor than this free access to the natural reservoirs of health. The labouring man can only go once a week in search of the breeze; and that is a sevenfold boon which brings the breeze into his daily home. The subjects of drainage and ventilation are beginning to attract beneficial attention,—but can never attract as much as their paramount importance deserves. Every notice is valuable which keeps that attention alive. In the matter of ventilation, in particular, it is needful to inform the public that the evil against which it is directed exists in its worst characters, precisely where it hides under the most showy forms and is least suspected. The splendour of splendid cities is gained by shutting up the poor away from the public eye in crowded alleys and invisible courts. Where every inch is covered with life, external regularity is obtained only by packing within—and every city incloses a series of such dungeons. A motion has just been made in the town-council of Manchester, for devoting a portion of the funds at the disposal of the Improvement Committee of that town, to the purchase and pulling down of such buildings as may let the air and light pass into and through such walled up districts,—and has been received in a spirit of warm and generous sympathy with the humble classes, which is valuable far beyond the direct objects which it proposes, valuable as these are. It is worth while to quote the description of

Glasgow, given by Mr. Prentice, the mover, as an example of the above truths—that men may learn to look behind the long stone screens which make a city's magnificence:—"Glasgow had been provided with splendid means of traffic; the streets were all built at right angles; and it was just such a town as a person would build if he were to lay down a plan before-hand upon paper. There were there what in America are called *blocks* of houses: you had a square block of buildings facing four principal streets,—and so far all was well,—but there was the inside of these blocks filled up with narrow courts and alleys containing the residences of the poor, and here was an amount of squalid wretchedness, filth, and misery which required to be seen to be believed." Read, as a comment upon such a picture as this, the following remarks of Dr. Southwood Smith:—"Medical attendance never can have the influence you would desire under these circumstances; and therefore it is that I have said you cannot treat the diseases that are produced in these localities; for the very same causes that produce the diseases render the application of the proper remedies impracticable." He who drives a street through one of these black-holes of civilization is a benefactor of the same kind as he who sank a well in the desert for the refreshment of his fellow-men.—Mr. Parker has given notice of his intention to bring in a bill next session, "to enforce the ventilation of workshops in certain cases;" and Mr. Mackinnon has put a notice on the books, that he will "call the attention of the House to the necessity of forming some legislative enactment, in accordance with the Reports of the Committee on the Health of Towns, and of the Ecclesiastical Commission, in which the practice of interment in the large towns and under churches and chapels is recommended to be abolished."

A monument has just been erected, at Staindrop, to the memory of the late Duke of Cleveland,—the work of Sir Richard Westmacott,—which is highly spoken of. We have seen sketches for parts of this work, but not the completed monument—which consists of a recumbent figure, with bas-reliefs emblematic of the virtues surrounding the altar-tomb whereon it rests. We hear that the sculptor himself values it as one of the best of the works which he has executed. We learn, with great regret, that there has been only too much reason for that virtual secession on the part of the Professor from our exhibition-rooms, of which we have sometimes complained. Sir Richard's health has been for some time declining; and he had, not long ago, broken up his studio, and dispersed its contents, with the view of going abroad,—but was arrested by very serious illness. There is recently a conspicuous improvement in the Professor's health, and we hope again to see him in his old communication with the public. Sir Richard declines, we understand, competing for the *Holland Monument*. By the way, it is remarkable enough, that the wish which we expressed only last week in reference to Bailey's sitting group of the *Graces*—a work which we believe to have waited fifteen years in the artist's studio, for a patron, has in the short interval been fulfilled. Mr. Neeld has given the sculptor a commission to execute the group in marble, of the life size—and we hope that in eighteen months the public will have the opportunity of judging a work, which, as we have said, we believe will do honour to our National Art.

The Comte de Cassini has presented to the library of Clermont the statue of his ancestor, Jean Dominique Cassini. The illustrious astronomer is represented meditating the composition of the Memoir in which he gives an account of his recent discoveries of the satellites of Saturn.

In Corsica, the town of Corte is about to erect a monument to the memory of Paoli.

The *Journal des Débats* announces that an accident occurred, a few days since, in the studio of the late celebrated sculptor, Thorwaldsen, at Copenhagen. The colossal model in plaster of Esculapius, the last work which this illustrious artist ever completed, and which was intended to serve as a pendant to his colossal statue of Hercules, placed in the museum of Copenhagen, fell to pieces, and was so completely broken, that this magnificent specimen is totally lost for all purposes of art.

From Göttingen, we hear of the death of M. George Christian Benecke, the oldest of the functionaries of the University. For forty-two years he

filled the chair of the ancient German languages and literatures; and he was chief Conservator of the University Library, to which he had been attached for sixty-one years. He was the last of the pupils of the philologist, Heyne, and formed, himself, some of the distinguished scholars of Germany. He is the author of many works which have attained celebrity.

The Scientific Congress of France opened its session for the year (being the twelfth), at Nîmes, on Sunday the 1st of the present month. The proceedings commenced with an inaugural discourse by the Baron d'Hombres-Firmas; and M. de Gasparin was chosen president. A private letter from Milan of the 30th ult. informs us:—"The savans have not yet begun to arrive, but everything promises a very brilliant meeting."

The University of Königsberg, to whose Jubilee we alluded last week, the occasion being that of celebrating its three hundredth anniversary, conferred the honour of Doctor of Philosophy on the Chevalier Robert Schomburgk, and on a number of other distinguished men, all Germans with two exceptions, besides our countryman, Mr. Faraday, and M. Dumas, of the Institute of France.

MM. Bravais and Martins have been for some time engaged in attempts to ascend Mont Blanc, but without success. After spending the intervening time in collecting a series of meteorological and geological observations in the Alpine country which surrounds the mountain, the ascent was happily effected on the 29th ult. The travellers found their tent on the *Grand Plateau* uninjured, and formed the design of passing a night, each, on the summit of the mountain,—while their companions (M. Lepileur being now added to the number) encamped in the tent. But the intense cold defeated this part of their project. The thermometer stood at 7½ degrees below zero, in the shade, at a quarter past 2 in the day; and the ascent was most painful, notwithstanding the fineness of the weather. At a short distance from the summit, they were assailed by a piercing wind; and the cold which it brought was so intense, that they describe their sensations on attaining the summit, when they had in some measure escaped its severity, as being that of men who had entered a well-warmed saloon.

A commission sent out, last year, by the French Governor of Senegal, to explore the course of the River Falémé, and the gold mines lying in the lands watered by that stream and its tributaries, having completed its labours by an examination of the upper course of the Gambian, the Ministry of the Marine, in France, is preparing for publication a memoir of M. Raffel, a member of the mission, which is said to resolve, on data quite new, the question of the alleged junction between the upper streams of the Gambia and Senegal.

A French journal, *L'Artiste*, announces the recovery of seven unpublished letters of Diderot, throwing light, it is said, on an obscure portion of his correspondence with Mlle. Voland. They are addressed to M. Dubac—who was at the head of the Colonial department in the administration of the Duc de Choiseul—in favour of a nephew of Mlle. Voland, and are said to furnish some valuable particulars relating to the then condition of French Guiana. They are about to be published.—The French papers also give the particulars of a trial, in which the tribunals have had to decide on the question of guarantee as applicable to the description given in a sale-catalogue of books. From a collection of books and manuscripts sold by M. Bohaire, the publisher, M. Tabary bought, for 300 francs, one described in the catalogue as a manuscript on fine vellum, in two folio volumes, of the 'Epistles of St. Jerome,' and to which was assigned the date of the thirteenth century. M. Tabary, afterwards discovered, on one of the latter pages of the first volume, this note:—"Epistolarum Sancti Hieronymi volumen primum finit. In nomine Sanctæ et individue Trinitatis et gloriæ virginis Mariæ scriptum—1468;" and, accordingly, sued the publisher for the return of his purchase-money. M. Bohaire pleaded his good faith, and that he had purchased the manuscript at the sale, in 1835, of the library of M. de Courcelles, as a manuscript of the thirteenth century,—and appealed to the conditions of sale in his catalogue, which prescribed that the books purchased should be collated within twenty-four hours of the purchase, whereas M. Tabary had kept

the MS. six months without complaint. The Court, however, decided that the question of collation applied only to the completeness of the copy, and not to a substantive misdescription, in which case the publisher must be considered as guaranteeing; and pronounced the sale void.

M. List has been exciting the enthusiasm of the Toulousians, as much by the popularity of his proceedings as by his art. The workmen's chorus having serenaded him at his hotel, the great performer came forward to thank them; and some of these expressing their regrets that they had never heard him, M. List offered to give a concert specially for them, and distributed six hundred tickets gratuitously amongst them.—From Dresden, we learn that Herr Wagner, the author of 'Cola Rienzi,' a five-act opera which has had great success at the German theatres, has been appointed Kapellmeister to the King, a post which has remained unfilled since the death of the great Weber.—At Steinbach, in the grand duchy of Baden, a monument has been inaugurated to the celebrated architect, Erwin, a native of that town, and builder of the Cathedral of Strasburgh. The work is from the chisel of M. Frederic, of Strasburgh, who has presented it to the town of Steinbach, and erected it at his own cost. It consists of the colossal marble statue of Erwin, standing erect, and looking towards his immortal work, the Cathedral, whose roof and towers are visible from Steinbach.

GREAT ATTRACTION.—DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK. THE TWO PICTURES now exhibiting represent the Interior of the Abbey Church of St. Ouen, at Rouen; and an Exterior View of the Cathedral of Notre Dame at Paris. Both Pictures are painted by M. Beaumont, and exhibit various novel effects of light and shade.—Open from Ten till Five.

MR. HENRY RUSSELL (from America.) will give his Vocal Entertainment, on Tuesday Evening, September 17th, at the QUEEN'S CONCERT ROOMS, HASOVER-SQUARE. He will sing 'I Love the Free,' 'The Dream of the Reveller,' 'The Gambler's Wife,' 'The Boatman of the Ohio,' 'The Maniac,' 'The Main Truck, or a Leap for Life,' 'The South Carolina Plantation Song of the Negro,' &c. Tickets, 2s. 6d., to be had at all the Music shops.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Sept. 3.—Colonel Fielding in the chair. M. C. B. Cave and W. Stirling, Esqs., were elected Fellows. Messrs. Henderson sent a good specimen of *Echites splendens*, having one flower in good condition, which served to show what a beautiful thing it is. It was introduced a year or two ago by Messrs. Veitch and Son, of Exeter, and is one of the finest climbing plants we have obtained for years. It not only produces fine trusses of bloom for a length of time, but each flower is said to continue in perfect beauty for seven or eight days, and sometimes even longer. Of fruit, some remarkable specimens decorated the tables; foremost among which was a Providence Pine from Mr. Mills, gardener to Baroness de Rothschild, measuring 13 inches high and 2½ round, and weighing 14½ lb. The number of pips in height was 12. This was the largest Pine ever produced before the Society, and excepting one lately cut from the same gardens, which, we are informed, weighed 15½ lb., it is probably the largest ever raised in England. Independently of its size, it was beautiful in form, and is a remarkable specimen of horticultural skill; there was no disproportion between the crown and the fruit. It was stated to have been raised in a pit contrived by Mr. Mills for growing cucumbers in. The large Silver Medal was awarded for it. Mr. Mills also sent a fine specimen of his Champion Cucumber, measuring 27 inches long.—From the Hon. R. H. Clive were three varieties of Russian apples, named Yellow transparent, Long-striped whran, and Yellow whran. The transparency in the first was, however, wanting, as is generally the case in specimens produced in this country.—From the garden of the Society eleven plants of *Fuchsia floribunda*, a garden variety, showing the effects produced on that kind of plant by the use of different sorts of manures. The plants were all taken from the cutting-pan at the same time and potted into 32-sized pots. The compost used was peat and loam in equal proportions. Of the first three plants, which were the best, No. 1 received one teaspoonful of Harris's liquid manure in half a pint of water; 2 had half an ounce of apatite spread on the surface of the soil; and 3 had the same mixed in the soil. These three were nearly equal in every respect. Of the next three, viz. 4, 5, and 6, the first two had each one ounce of charcoal, the one on the

surface, the other mixed in the soil; 6 received half an ounce of superphosphate of lime mixed in a pint of water. These three were also nearly equal, but were somewhat inferior to the first three. Other three, 7, 8, and 9, one of which received an ounce of cow-dung mixed in the soil, another a quarter of an ounce of phosphate of ammonia mixed in half a pint of water, the third half an ounce of superphosphate of lime mixed in the soil, were still inferior to the second three; and No. 10, to which one teaspoonful of Hallett's concentrated liquid manure was given in half a pint of water, was the least luxuriant of the group. Each of these substances was repeated on the 6th of July, and in order to give them a fair chance the plants were never repotted after they were taken from the cutting-pan. All these plants were larger and better than No. 11, to which nothing was applied, and with which the others were contrasted, in order to ascertain the comparative merits of the different substances applied.

FINE ARTS.

Third Report of the Commissioners on the Fine Arts, presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty.

WE shall now, according to promise, publish the observations by Mr. Hallam 'On the principles which may regulate the selection of subjects for Painting in the Palace at Westminster, or, as popularly called, the New Houses of Parliament. We admit at once that the Commission was not appointed merely to insure additional magnificence to the building, but to promote the Fine Arts in this country, and raise it in general estimation, as a school of painting and sculpture; that our artists have not generally cultivated historical painting; and that the size of our houses, and exclusion from our churches, have materially tended to this neglect of high art. We now proceed to Mr. Hallam's argument:—

"If the development of native genius in historical painting, and the production of what is absolutely best, ought to be principally encouraged as well for the sake of the splendour of the new palace, as of placing our successful artists on a proper footing, it seems that we should be cautious of restraining too much their talents by any limitation incompatible with their fullest exercise. And here, as it appears to me, a certain difficulty may arise. No one, probably, would wish to treat the buildings connected with the assembly of the Legislature, and to be consecrated, we hope, hereafter by so many improving associations, as mere galleries, where nothing in the works of the painter or sculptor is to be in harmony with the general design. Such would, I conceive, be the worst of two extremes, did it appear necessary to choose any extreme at all. In our halls of Parliament, or as we approach them, let us behold the images of famous men; of Sovereigns, by whom the two Houses of Peers and Commons have been in successive ages called together; of statesmen and orators to whom they owed the greatest part of their lustre, and whose memory, now hallowed by time, we cherish with a more unanimous respect than contemporary passions always afford. It is for this reason, that I do not much interfere with sculpture; though it is not evident that the ideal of that art, which of course is its noblest object, need altogether to be excluded. Nor do I discuss the propriety of historical portraits.

"But in large works of painting, either in fresco or in oil, but especially in the former, it does appear to me more than doubtful, whether the artist should in all instances, and in all parts of the building, be confined to our own British history. It is impossible for me not to feel my own incompetency to offer any opinion on an art which, as such, is so little understood. Still there are truths as to historic painting which lie almost on the surface. It requires no skill to have observed, that, in the selection and management of subjects, a painter will prefer, wherever his choice is truly free, those which give most scope for the beauties of his art. Among these we may of course reckon such as exhibit the human form to a considerable degree uncovered; such as throw it into action, and excite the sympathy of the spectator by the ideas of energy or of grace; such as intermingle female beauty, without which pictures, at least a series of them, will generally be unattractive; such as furnish

the eye with the repose of massy and broad draperies, which is strictly a physical pleasure, and for want of which we soon turn from many representations of modern events, however creditable to the artist; such as are consistent with landscape and other accessories.

"Now, if we turn our attention to British history, do we find any very great number of subjects which supply the painter with these elements of his composition? I must, however, observe here, that by subjects from British history, I mean events sufficiently important to have been recorded, and not such as may be suggested by the pages of the historian, to an artist's imagination. As the sole argument for limited selection appears to be grounded on the advantage of association with our historical reminiscences, it can hardly extend to the creations of a painter, even though he may attach real names to the figures on his canvas. And I would here remark, by the way, that the subject of one of the prize cartoons, a work in most respects of great merit, appears objectionable upon this theory of historical illustration; since the first trial by jury is not only an event nowhere recorded, but one which no antiquary will deem possible as there exhibited. Nor should any event, as I presume, be deemed historical in this point of view which was as it were episodic, and which forms no link in the sequence of causation, affecting only a few persons, great as they might be by fame or rank, without influencing the main stream of public affairs. Even some stories not without relation to the course of general history, and which no writer would omit, might not appear prominent enough for selection, where the illustration of ancestral times should be the leading aim. Yet these might be among the fittest themes for a painter's composition. To take a single example, I should think the rencontre between Margaret of Anjou and the Rohrer, after the Battle of Hexham, upon the verge of what should be admissible as English history in this particular application to the Houses of Parliament. This well-known story, perhaps, I would not reject, not as being well known, which does not seem sufficient, but as having somewhat of a public importance, according to the common, possibly fabulous, report of those times. I should, however, did it rest on my judgment, very much hesitate to admit the penance of Jane Shore, because no public consequences ensued from it; though I can easily conceive that it might furnish a beautiful picture. In these two cases it may be remarked in passing, a female form would be predominant; but for the most part our history, as might be supposed, does not afford any plentiful harvest of what is so essential in historic painting. In fact, the most beautiful and interesting women in English history must be painted, if at all, on the scaffold.

"In this part of my observations, I do not anticipate much difference of opinion. Some indeed have, perhaps, a notion that nothing but parliamentary, or at least civil history, should be commemorated on these walls. But the majority would probably be willing to let Trafalgar or Waterloo find a place; and in general whatever we read and recollect from Caesar to the present day. Yet with this extension, it may be much suspected that really good subjects would not be found over numerous. Battles we have of course, but I cannot reckon battle pieces the greatest style of historic art; and, since the introduction of field artillery and scarlet uniforms, they are much less adapted to it than they were. Versailles may show us what this is good for. And as to coronations, processions, meetings of princes or generals, and all overcrowded pictures, they will hardly answer the end which we have in view of displaying the genius of a truly great painter, should we be fortunate enough to possess one.

"There were doubtless subjects in the long course of our annals of a different kind from these, and it is by no means my opinion that English history is to supply nothing. We cannot but recollect that a living foreign painter of high reputation has, with a sort of preference, resorted to this source for his most celebrated pictures. It is impossible that the large proportion of those which may hereafter adorn the walls of the new building, should not be of this description. The bias of public taste in England tends so strongly towards what is called nature, and so little towards idealism in painting, or even in sculpture, and has evidently exercised so great an influence over our artists themselves, the motives for selecting our own

history are so obvious, and to a considerable degree, as I would again repeat, so well grounded, that we can have no reason to apprehend a superabundant influx of more universal subjects.

"It may deserve peculiar consideration that we have looked to the new building as affording sufficient space for fresco paintings, and consequently such an opportunity as has not often occurred for encouraging what many deem the noblest style of the art. The prizes awarded to the cartoons last year were understood to have this object, if not exclusively, yet at least with a marked preference. The artists who entered into that competition, and the public in general, have been led to expect that a portion of the building was destined for that species of decoration. Now, I conceive, that every difficulty which a first-rate painter in oil would find as to displaying his powers upon subjects of modern English history, must exist in a far greater degree, when he has to deal with fresco. Probably there are few, if any, instances of modern draperies in that material; meaning by modern, the usual dresses of this part of Europe during the last two centuries. The fresco style is associated in our memories with grand and beautiful forms; with learned anatomy; with noble expressions; with all the poetry of art; but not with portraits, or such individuality of character as resembles portrait; not with anything debased, in this sense, by familiarity, as modern dress must be, even if less destitute of beauty than it is. Some of the pictures of the foreign artist to whom I have alluded, could not, I presume, have been successfully executed in fresco. What is admired in oil painting might be ignoble to the last degree in the more ideal world which the school of Michael Angelo and Raphael create. Let us remember what took place as to the cartoons. The whole range of our history was open to the competitors. Yet among eleven prize designs, and I do not know that the proportion differed much as to the rest, several represented the early Britons, several more the Anglo-Saxons, and no one came down below the Plantagenet dynasty. We cannot doubt that the selection was made in order to exhibit more of the naked figure, and more breadth and flow of draperies, than any strictly historical event under the families of Stuart or Brunswick could supply. But would there not be something ridiculous in covering the walls of our Houses of Parliament with Caesar or Caractacus? that is, if we determine to exclude all that religion, or mythology, or poetry, or classical history would offer, and at the same time are compelled to exclude, by the infelicity of recent times, which prefer utility to picturesqueness, and choose what is convenient to themselves, rather than what would look well on a wall, the most important events, and the most distinguished personages of our annals. In a larger view, that is, if we give full scope to the artist's genius, neither Caesar nor Caractacus need be set aside.

"The arrangement adopted for the New Palace at Westminster, may lead, perhaps, to a reasonable distribution of the paintings which may be chosen for its decoration. In those apartments which are naturally associated with the business of the Legislature, such as St. Stephen's Hall, the Central Hall, and the various rooms belonging to the two Houses of Parliament, our English history, or, possibly, also, such allegory or mythic representation as bears upon legislation and policy, ought exclusively to find a place. There would be in this at once a commemoration of past times becoming the national sympathy, and a just observance of that propriety in all its accessory parts, which a splendid monument of architecture requires. But while the whole building is strictly denominated Her Majesty's Palace, there is one part more peculiarly reserved to the Sovereign. Of this, the principal apartment is the Victoria Gallery, of great length and magnificence, and in which, more than any other room, the most excellent works of art ought to be placed. It is probably here that fresco painting will be employed; though I must say I have not so clear a recollection of the plan of the interior, as to know whether it would be adapted to that style. But if it be so, or even in the case of pictures in oils being alone applicable, I would with deference submit, that in a gallery set apart for Her Majesty in her own palace, there can be no reason founded on the analogy of this or other countries for restraining the painters who may be employed to any con-

ditions beyond those which the general laws of their art, and the due consideration of the place may impose.

"It is of course far from my intention to insinuate that any artist should have an unlimited choice of his subject, without control of Her Majesty's Government, whether testified through this Commission or otherwise. No one, I trust, could put so extravagant a construction on these remarks. It seems, on the contrary, essential that the selection of subjects should be entirely reserved for the paramount authority; but it is this selection for which, with a view to the greatest possible development of British genius, I would recommend a wider field, in some parts of the building, than those who regard only its peculiar character as the seat of the Legislature are inclined to contemplate.

HENRY HALLAM.

Our readers will readily admit that the opinions of Mr. Hallam are entitled to respectful attention. For ourselves, we agree in what he says as to battle pieces, and thank him heartily for sounding a note of warning about coronations, processions, and the like displays, into countenancing which, courtiers, and court painters, and traders in art, would willingly mislead the Council. But from his argument about allegories, and the presumed poverty of English historical subject, we dissent; and the objection against the 'First Trial by Jury,' is just one of those fanciful and ingenious speculations, which clever men often raise, as if for the purpose of stumbling over them. Lord Mahon's reply will be read with equal interest. Here again, though we concur in much that is said, we have points of difference—and we must especially dissent from the examples adduced, which appear to us singularly ill selected; the majority indeed would seem to have been suggested by existing works.

"Towards Mr. Hallam I entertain the highest respect and regard, and I sincerely distrust, as I ought, my own judgment on any historical subject which he sees in a different view. But when I find even so eminent an authority declare, in reference to our New Houses of Parliament, that 'it does appear to him more than doubtful whether the artist should, in all instances, and in all parts of the building, be confined to our own British history,' I must own how entirely and how strongly I venture to dissent from that opinion.

"First, let us consider for a moment what 'our own British history' really is. It is the narrative of a race who, from a low and humble origin, roaming as painted savages over their barren hills, or exposed to sale for slaves in the market-place of Rome, have gradually, in the course of ages, attained perhaps the very first place among the nations; who at home have known how to combine, beyond any other people, the greatest security to property with the greatest freedom of action; who have given tokens such as no lapse of time and no violence of revolution could efface, of valour, of virtue, and of eloquence, of scientific discovery, and artistic skill; who abroad have tried their strength against every other power and have never been found inferior, who have proved as successful in the as glorious rivalry of knowledge and benevolence. In the Indian empire which we have founded, we now rule over 120,000,000 of subjects or dependents, the largest population except in China, which the world has, I believe, yet seen combined beneath a single sway. In the colonies which we have conquered, as in Canada, we have seen rapidly increased wealth and welfare, the results to them of their own subjugation. It is not long since I had occasion to investigate what might be the population of Canada at the time of its conquest by Wolfe; I found it stated at less than 60,000; and I observed that this was almost exactly the number which Mr. Buchanan in his report to Sir Charles Bagot, of December 31, 1842, states as the total of the emigrants into the province during the last 12 months; so that after 80 years of English possession, the accession to its population in one year is actually equivalent to the whole of its population previous to that period! It would require a volume, instead of a letter, were I to go through, however rapidly, the whole series of facts such as these; but I ask, is it now contended that a course of eighteen centuries tending to such results, can be really so barren to the artist? Can it be, that after exploits whose fame has filled the globe, and which have conquered or colonized no small portion of it, our history affords no suffi-

cient materials for the adornment even of a single edifice amongst us?

"I cannot but observe that the two instances, Canada, and India, which from amongst others, I have quoted as tokens of our greatness, might also perhaps afford practical answers to the artistic objections urged by Mr. Hallam. He depreciates the painting of battle since 'the introduction of field artillery and scarlet uniforms;' but surely in Canada the death-scene of Wolfe, when withdrawn from the field and mortally wounded, with, I think, only one officer by his side, the young general (he was but thirty-three,) surveyed the distant conflict with a dying yet a steadfast gaze, is a subject worthy of employing, and I trust it may obtain, a far greater artist than West. Thus, also, when Mr. Hallam justly points out the scope to a painter, afforded by 'such subjects as exhibit the human form to a considerable degree uncovered,' he will, I am sure, acknowledge (for no man could more ably describe) that the long train of our Indian successes in the arts of war and peace, would supply the advantage he desires by the delineation of the graceful and well-formed but scarcely clad Hindoos.

"Mr. Hallam goes on to observe with great truth, that for any attractive series of historical pictures, it is essential to 'intermingle female beauty,' and this, in his opinion, a strict adherence to our authentic records will not adequately supply. 'In fact,' he adds, 'the most beautiful and interesting women in English history must be painted, if at all, upon the scaffold.' Here, again, I cannot have the honour and pleasure (for I feel it as both) to concur with him.—Are we to have any state trials? If we have, could there be a nobler female figure for an artist than in the scene which another member of your Commission has well described?—

"There on that awful day,
Counsel of friends, all human help denied,
All but from her, who sits the pen to guide,
Like that sweet saint who sat by Russell's side,
Under the judgment seat."

"Thus, also, why need any bygone differences on a Royal line, now extinct, prevent us from delineating the young Countess of Nithsdale liberating her husband from the Tower in 1716 (as her own most beautiful letter describes it), or the young Flora MacDonald saving Charles Stuart from his pursuers in 1746? Again, how rich is Scottish history before the Union in deeds of female heroism! Remember, for example, the scene previous to the assassination of James the First, when Catherine Douglas thrust her arm, instead of a bolt, into the staple of the door, and bid the conspirators without burst it open if they would after this announcement! But supposing that Mr. Hallam desires to confine us in our argument, strictly to England, and to actions in which Royal blood bears some part; although I see no reason for either limitation, yet even then I would venture to allege, amongst others, Boadicea; Queen Eleanor of Guyenne saving her husband's life by sucking the poison from his wound; Queen Margaret of Anjou holding forth her children, and confronting the robber in the forest (an instance allowed by Mr. Hallam as the exception to this rule); Anne Boleyn in her bridal array; Lady Jane Grey at her youthful studies; Mary Queen of Scotland, and heiress presumptive of England, on landing from France; Queen Elizabeth at Tilbury Fort; Henrietta Maria in the Civil Wars; Miss Lane assisting Charles the Second in his concealments and disguises after the battle of Worcester; the flight of Queen Mary of Este and her infant son in 1688; Queen Mary the Second receiving the news of the battle of the Boyne; Queen Anne giving her assent to the Act of Union with Scotland; and last, not least, the First Council of Queen Victoria! It may be objected that, in some of these instances, as with Queen Elizabeth and Queen Anne, the 'female beauty' required by Mr. Hallam may not be found. But where a Queen is introduced, there need be no lack in paintings any more than in reality of blooming Ladies of the Bed-chamber and Maids of Honour to attend her.

"I admit, indeed, to Mr. Hallam that there would be a sameness and monotony in a long series of mere Parliamentary scenes, debates, divisions, and Royal Commissions; but surely it would be easy to select some striking and obvious events that break the even current; as, for instance, the seizing the mace by

Oliver Cromwell, or the dying scene of Lord Chatham.

"But further still; if our subjects are once to step beyond our own pale, what are those subjects to be, —mythological, allegorical, or drawn from the history of some foreign, and possibly, at the time of painting, hostile nation? Whichever of these plans is proposed will, I think, be open to considerable difficulties. I should not, indeed, object to an allegory, if that allegory were clearly and distinctly applied to some period or passage in our history; thus, for example, the figure of Astræa for the reign of Edward the First, 'the English Justinian,' as Blackstone calls him. But as to Mr. Hallam's general idea of subjects independent of, and unconnected with, English history, for the intended frescoes and paintings of the New Palace at Westminster, I can only say that my judgment, little as it may be worth, is decidedly adverse to the suggestion; and that, had I any vote to give or influence to exert upon this question, I would no more consent to admit foreign scenes to decorate a British House of Parliament, than I would an alien to sit among its members.

MAHON.

"I have confined myself in this letter, as Mr. Hallam in the argument which I have controverted, to political and military subjects; but I can see no good reason why we should exclude from our range of choice the honours achieved amongst—and conferred upon—us, either in literature or science. To give only one instance; could there be a nobler subject for any artist than Milton, in his blindness, dictating *Paradise Lost* to his daughters?"

A brief reply from Mr. Hallam closes the discussion.

"I must observe, in the first place, that, though Lord Mahon 'entirely and strongly dissents' from my opinion, that 'it does appear to me more than doubtful whether the artists should in all instances, and in all parts of the building, be confined to our own British history;' he has, in his reasoning, overlooked my limitations, and confined himself to what I never disputed, but distinctly admitted as desirable, that subjects selected from our own history should be preferred in certain parts of the building. The ends which it appeared to me ought to be contemplated are twofold: the first, appropriate decoration of our greatest national edifice; the second, the exhibition of the finest works which our native artists can produce: for I must confess that by the encouragement of the Fine Arts, as expressed in the terms of our Commission, I never understood the giving employment to particular individuals, but the elevation of the national character by the development of powers which, in ordinary circumstances, could not be adequately displayed. I doubted, and continue to doubt, whether British history, especially in its more modern periods, would always be found favourable to the highest style of art; and the resolution of the Commission, that subjects of 'universal or national interest' should be chosen, seems, by the disjunctive preposition, to leave this still open, notwithstanding the weight that must justly be assigned to the opinion of Lord Mahon.

"I have heard it alleged, and by those to whom, on every account, I would show deference, that no subject ought to present insuperable difficulties to a good painter, whose business it is to surmount them. But might I not ask, is not this rather applicable to merely technical difficulties? Are there not certain requisites in what is called the grand style of art, incompatible in many instances with the nature of the subject, or with its indispensable accessories? "No man," said Sir Joshua Reynolds, 'can deny that it seems at first view very reasonable, that a statue which is to carry down to posterity the remembrance of an individual, should be dressed in the fashion of the times, in the dress which he himself wore. This would certainly be true, if the dress were part of the man; but after a time, the dress is only an amusement for an antiquarian; and if it obstructs the general design of the piece, it is to be disregarded by the artist. Common sense must here give way to a higher sense. In the naked form, and in the disposition of the drapery, the difference between one artist and another is principally seen. But if he is compelled to exhibit the modern dress, the naked form is entirely hid, and the drapery is already disposed by the skill of the tailor. Were a Phidias to obey such absurd commands, he would

please no more than an ordinary sculptor; since, in the inferior parts of every art, the learned and the ignorant are nearly upon a level.

"These were probably among the reasons that induced the sculptor of that wonderful figure of Laocœon to exhibit him naked, notwithstanding he was surprised in the act of sacrificing to Apollo, and consequently ought to have been shown in his sacerdotal habits, if those greater reasons had not preponderated. Art is not yet in so high estimation with us as to obtain so great a sacrifice as the ancients made, especially the Grecians, who suffered themselves to be represented naked, whether they were generals, lawgivers, or kings.

"We certainly would not represent our kings and lawgivers naked; and, in painting at least, it is almost equally clear, that they could not be represented in dresses notoriously unlike those of the age in which they lived. It seems to follow that an artist must labour under a considerable disadvantage in exhibiting a style of apparel which, though exceedingly convenient and fit for our climate, is so destitute of beauty and picturesqueness, that it is always avoided in a full length portrait, where any pretence can be found for a different costume. If, in some instances, scriptural, mythological, or poetical subjects were permitted, a freer scope at least would be given for the excellencies of the highest style.

"I should forbear from any remark upon the historical events which Lord Mahon has indicated as fitted to appear on the walls of the New Houses of Parliament, if, having formerly thrown out some doubts as to the facility of finding altogether proper subjects, I might not appear negligent in not having thought of these. Some of them probably would be well adapted to the place; but I should hesitate as to others. Besides the condition of historical importance which I have already mentioned, it seems necessary, in relation to such a selection, that the event should be nationally honourable. There are facts of great interest to a reader, over which we ought to draw a veil. All state trials, as far as I remember, and certainly that to which Lord Mahon particularly alludes, are in this predicament. Nations have never celebrated on their public monuments anything but their pomp and pride. There have been many unfortunate days of battles in the annals of France, but we shall not find them on the walls of Versailles. It might not be difficult to point out objections of a different nature to some of the events which Lord Mahon has mentioned; and it may be said generally, that many subjects may be extremely well adapted to a private collection which, by encouraging sympathies, in any direction, counter to our constitutional policy, as well as by numerous other grounds of exception, could not properly be selected as commemorative of British history."

The same Subject considered with reference to the Nature and various Styles of the Formative Arts, by C. L. Eastlake.

"The question respecting the selection of fit subjects for painting, in the decoration of an important building, cannot be fairly considered without referring to the nature of the art itself, and the variety of its styles.

"The general nature of the formative arts, as distinguished from language or description, from which their subjects are often taken, is too familiar to require much comment. It may suffice to advert to those principles of representation which have been derived from such a comparison, and which affect the question proposed.

"In a subject taken from description it is required that the impression conveyed should be as nearly as possible equivalent to that of the written narrative; and this translation (for such it is) can rarely be accomplished without some deviation from the letter of the original, in order to render its true meaning. It follows that where it is absolutely impossible for painting, which represents what passes in a single moment, and in one view, to convey an impression equivalent to a given description, that description cannot be said to furnish a good subject for representation.

"Sir Joshua Reynolds gives an instance of an ill-adapted subject of this kind which was recommended to a painter. 'It was what passed between James II. and the old Earl of Bedford, in the Council which

was held just before the Revolution.* This is a very striking piece of history; but so far from being a proper subject, that it unluckily possesses no one requisite necessary for a picture; it has a retrospect to other circumstances of history of a very complicated nature; it marks no general or intelligible action or passion, &c.

"The question here is not whether a good picture could be made out of two persons in conversation; but whether the precise story could be told. It is evident that it could not; and that the representation could not be equivalent to the description.

"There are many subjects, the same writer observes, 'which, though very interesting to the reader, would make no figure in representation; such are those subjects which consist in any long series of action, the parts of which have very much dependency each on the other; or where any remarkable point or turn of verbal expression makes a part of the excellence of the story; or where it has its effect from allusion to circumstances not present.'

"Among the changes which a subject may undergo in being transferred from description to representation may be mentioned the omission of circumstances which, however forcible and satisfactory in words, would be disagreeable when presented to the sight. One well-known instance may suffice. In the *Æneid* the serpent coils itself twice round the neck of Laocœon. Suppose some Mæcenas, more conversant in poetry than art, were to employ a sculptor or painter to copy this description literally; the admirable lines of Virgil, thus rendered, would produce a tasteless work of art.†

"Not only the forms, but the colours of description, might sometimes be unpleasant to the sight. Moral associations, or moral epithets, may render all colours and their combinations pleasing in words, however unsatisfactory they might be to the eye.

"To insist, therefore, that a work of art should be absolutely faithful to the description from which it is taken (though that description might be excellent in itself, and true to the conditions of eloquent language), might be sometimes fatal to its success.

"The restriction of representation to a single moment, and a limited space, has suggested various liberties in Painting and Sculpture, in order to render the impression as nearly as possible equivalent to that of the story represented. For example, in Raphael's celebrated painting, representing the possessed boy brought to the apostles while Christ was transfigured on Mount Tabor, the painter has taken the liberty of bringing the figures of the Redeemer, and those who were with him on the Mount during his transfiguration, near, and has reduced the mountain to a hillock. This is an instance of a great liberty taken with space, but not with time, since the two events represented may be supposed to have happened together, and assuming the above to be the title or subject of the picture, it is evident, that in order to be equivalent to the description, the scene of the transfiguration required to be made prominent. The ultimate object of the artist in proposing such a subject to himself it is not necessary here to inquire into.

"The liberties taken with time are much more common, but they are only considered excusable in historic art, when they greatly increase the force of the impression, and render it on the whole a more intelligible translation of the description. It is to be observed that the great artist before-mentioned, in most of his Scripture subjects, does not depart in this respect from the letter of sacred history.

"The liberties taken with the personal appearance of historical characters are thus defended by Reynolds. 'How much the great style exacts from its

* Delany's Memoirs. The following appears to be the incident referred to:—'As soon as James entered the city, he summoned an assembly of the Peers to ask their advice, and to make an apology to them for not having called a Parliament. In passing to the Council he met with a shock, perhaps as severe as any he had felt. Meeting the father of the unfortunate Lord Russell, the old Earl of Bedford, who had offered 100,000*l.* for his son's life, but which the King, when Duke of York, had prevailed with his brother to refuse; he said to the Earl, 'My Lord, you are a good man; you have much money with the Peers; you can do me service with them to-day.' 'I once had a son,' answered the Earl, sighing, 'who could have served your Majesty upon this occasion.' James was struck motionless."

† See Lessing, 'Laocœon oder über die Grenzen der Malerei und Poesie,' where this subject is fully treated."

professors to conceive and represent their subjects in a poetical manner, not confined to mere matter of fact, may be seen in the Cartoons. In all the pictures in which the painter has represented the Apostles he has drawn them with great nobleness; he has given them as much dignity as the human figure is capable of receiving; yet we are expressly told in Scripture that they had no such respectable appearance; and of St. Paul, in particular, we are told by himself, that his bodily presence was mean. A painter must compensate the natural deficiencies of his art. He cannot, like the poet or historian, expatiate and impress the mind with great veneration for the character of the hero or saint he represents, though he lets us know, at the same time, that the saint was deformed, or the hero lame. The painter has no other means of giving an idea of the dignity of the mind, but by that external appearance which grandeur of thought does generally, though not always, impress on the countenance; and by that correspondence of figure to sentiment and situation which all men wish but cannot command. The painter ought to give all that he possibly can, since there are so many circumstances of true greatness that he cannot give at all. He cannot make his hero talk like a great man; he must make him look like one.

"The precept here given, in its application to historical painting properly so called, may require to be received with caution; and the great authority referred to by Reynolds may be quoted on the other side, as having attained the grandeur of his style, at least without losing himself in rapid generalization, a defect so frequent in the latter Italian schools. The rule is chiefly applicable to works of large dimensions and requiring to be seen at some distance; but in paintings which admit of nearer view, the power of expression has often triumphed over unpleasing forms.

"The liberties taken with costume are notorious, and are frequent among the great masters. Their sole object seems to have been to be true to the imagination. Even in the instance of Nicholas Poussin—the most remarkable of the older painters for attention to costume—the air of remote antiquity, the classic probability which he contrives to give to his works are addressed quite as much to the imagination as to the erudition of the spectator, and the artist's materials are selected or modified according to their applicability to this larger purpose, for he is frequently incorrect in the mere scholarship of costume. The rage for classic research in some modern (now nearly extinct) continental schools often led to the reverse of this principle, viz., the habit of addressing the understanding rather than the imagination. The weapons of Homer's warriors were chiefly tempered copper,* not steel; but as few persons are accustomed to associate this circumstance with their conception of Homeric battles, the representation (for such representations have appeared) was unsatisfactory, though true.

"The extent of modern antiquarian researches, in increasing information in archaeology, has increased the number of critics; and to be true even to the imagination, now, a painter requires to be more attentive to the details in question than the earlier artists were. But the character of art is unchangeable, and the materials of costume are still to be considered subservient to the end of representation. Notwithstanding the gross errors in costume, which are observable in the pictures of the Venetian and Flemish masters, it will be remembered that such errors have scarcely weighed in the balance when their merit as artists has been considered, and that, on the other hand, the most rigid correctness in costume would never of itself be sufficient to constitute a fine picture.

"The practice of the great Italian painters resembled that of the artists of antiquity. Their first care was to avoid as much as possible a modern appearance and ordinary associations in dress; and this was frequently extended even to contemporary subjects and portraits. In selecting obsolete costumes they were at least sure that taste could not alter respecting them, or that if any reaction took place it would be in favour of such costumes. The dress being once removed from the immediate present, they were not particular about the precise period of

a subject, and were guided chiefly by the demands of the art. Thus Giorgione appears to have dressed his figures in costumes older than those of the period in which he lived.* Raphael, who willingly introduced the flowing robes of the clergy, and religious orders (unaltered from much earlier times), and the armour and habiliments of Swiss guards (uncommon from their foreign appearance), took great liberties with the general costume of the period in which he lived.

"The same freedom is known to have been exercised by the Greek sculptors. 'It is certain,' observes Visconti,† 'that the costumes of Greek and Roman statues are not in general those of the time, but belong to an earlier period.' The liberty of representing heroes undressed is well known. 'No hunter ever went to the chase so little attired as the Meleager of the Vatican. No warrior ever appeared in the field like the hero misnamed the fighting gladiator. Achilles was not present at the council of Agamemnon as he is represented in a bas-relief of the capital; Laocoon did not officiate as a priest naked. The care taken by Ulysses to appear with decorum before the daughter of Alcinoos, proves that Jason could not have presented himself naked at the court of Æetes, or at that of the king of Corinth, when he conversed with Medea or Creusa, although in various bas-reliefs he is so represented.' 'The statues of distinguished Grecians, Pindar, Euripides, Demosthenes, Aristotle, and others, which are undoubtedly iconic, are dressed only in a large mantle, thrown in a picturesque manner over the figure. This costume was never that of the Greeks; some of the Cynics only had adopted it.'

"Even in later times, and when the actual costume is somewhat familiar, 'the statues of Romans, such as Pompey, Agrippa, Augustus, &c., are naked, or with drapery only, as an unimportant accessory.'

"The ancient sculptors were less free when they represented events of their own time on triumphal arches or other public monuments, but not to mention the introduction of allegorical figures, they still took great liberties with the costume of the period. The details of dress which, from whatever cause, happen to be introduced in the figures in the Trajan column, prove how much was suppressed on other occasions. Other works of the time of Trajan, executed perhaps by the same artists, offer not the slightest trace of these details. In the bas-reliefs in question the soldiers wear a sort of neckcloth (*focale*), and the upper open part of their tunics is furnished with a row of buttons.

"As the art declined the costume was represented more faithfully. 'The *lana* (later known by the name of *lorum*), though belonging to the ancient Roman costume, first appears in works of art of the time of Septimius Severus. The consuls are rudely represented on the ivory diptychs of a later period in all the pomp of their official dress. But in works of a better age no Roman magistrate is ever represented with the *prætecta*, no senator with the *laticlave*,‡ no patrician with the *crenata* in his sandal; although these were respectively the badges of their rank. The *umbo*, or knot of the toga on the breast, is in like manner represented in no statue. It is scarcely necessary to add that the principal garments are worn next to the skin in statues, whereas the writers of both languages make mention of *indusium*, *subucula*, *hypobasis* and *hypodites*.'

"These various examples may be sufficient to show that the great aim of the Fine Arts (as regards their external form), viz., the representation of what is beautiful, has in the best ages of art, been considered paramount to literal fidelity of costume.

"Many of the licences above adverted to are regulated by the style of the art; different subjects, indeed, suppose different modes of imitation, and even different dimensions. The imitation of the details of dress is one of the points which characterize works of art of moderate size; for the fullest means of imitation which painting can employ are, strictly speaking, most appreciable in such dimensions, as

coming within the range of most distinct vision; and hence, the more complete those means, the more the introduction of accidental circumstances is compatible with due gradation. But, as dimensions and distance increase, or, as the scale of effect which represents the differences of nature, from whatever cause, becomes less full, or less appreciable, the objects represented require to be selected with an especial regard to their importance, beauty, and character.

"The extreme principle which may be deduced from these considerations is, that in proportion as the means of imitation become circumscribed, the representation of inanimate objects becomes less satisfactory; an exception being necessary in the instance of drapery (in the sense of dress) since it is capable of indicating the living form.

"An isolated figure of a Dutch boor, by Teniers, or Ostade,—admitted to be unobjectionable while accompanied by the qualities which characterize the style of those masters,—if reduced to a silhouette on a vase, or enlarged to a marble statue, or magnified to a colossal painting (supposing it to undergo the modifications suited to such conditions), would become a form of beauty.

"The instances where this necessity of reducing art to its essentials may exist in painting must of course be rare; but works which combine colossal dimensions, with limited means of imitation, may be allowed to come under the description in question. Such are the frescoes of Michael Angelo, in the Sistine chapel, in which, as Reynolds observes, the great artist aimed at little more than can be accomplished in sculpture.

"The degree in which a somewhat restricted mode of imitation, for example that of fresco, can be safely applied to the representation of inanimate objects, where the figures are of ordinary size, is best exemplified by Raphael's later works in the Vatican; such as the Heliodorus, the Miracle of Bolsena, the Attila, and the Deliverance of Peter. These works are in an elevated style of art, and are the most perfect examples extant of fresco-painting; yet they are by no means deficient, even to modern eyes, in what is called picturesque effect, and that this effect is greatly assisted by the costumes, armour, and accessories, there can be no doubt.

"In fit dimensions, and with all the resources of oil-painting the latitude with regard to the selection of subjects is again greatly increased. But it is not to be supposed that the essential conditions of art ever cease, even in the lowest and most literal styles. The defective forms and ordinary incidents of the Flemish and Dutch painters would not command admiration of themselves; the real attraction in the works of those masters consists in the excellence of their colouring, and the consummate skill displayed in their chiaro-scuro and composition. Sculpture has but one style, and beauty, if excluded from form, is attainable in that art by no other means; but, in painting the *sum* of beauty may be made up by colouring, and by other qualities strictly constituting the specific style of the art. It may be added, that the united sense of mankind has never failed to award its approbation to works, whatever may be their general defects, which assert and depend on the powers exclusively possessed by the art to which they belong.

"But the end of all the Fine Arts, as sources of mental pleasure or moral culture, offers a more enlarged criterion by which to estimate the worth of different schools, and beauty and selection in form—a recommendation which the schools last referred to, want, is, among other qualities, a necessary consequence of this higher aim.

"Among the various styles of painting, and the modifications attending them, it is here necessary to consider such as are fit for the permanent decoration of public buildings, and the subjects which may be appropriate in the present case. In ministering to the tastes of individuals, the arts may be as varied in their character as the varieties of minds, or of the same mind at different moments, may seem to demand; but in addressing, or being supposed to address a nation, their language requires to be always dignified. If mere magnificence and splendour have been sometimes confounded with grandeur, from the reigning taste of a period, the general intention has been nevertheless the same.

"The evidence of this homage to the public (in

* * The story of Rembrandt's collection of old costumes indicates the same taste.

† Opere, vol. iii. p. 47.

‡ The stripes and borders of the *trabea*, and the *prætecta* (varieties of the toga), and the *latus clavus* on the tunic, being only coloured additions to the dress, would hardly be found in good sculpture. They are, however, represented by indented lines on later and inferior works.

* * Millin *Minéralogie Homérique*, p. 133.

its largest sense) is not less necessary in the imitative arts than in architecture, which, in all ages, has marked its national and public monuments with a grandeur (or what has been intended for it) not merely depending on the purpose of the edifice, but addressed, as it were, to the ideal spectator.

"And here it may be allowable to repeat a remark often made, yet too often forgotten in practice, viz., that if magnitude and height have generally been the characteristics of important architectural monuments, the remaining condition of sufficient space for the spectator to receive the impression is indispensable. In Italy, for example, in Florence, Siena, and Venice, the public buildings have an effect which some edifices of thrice their magnitude, in other cities, fail to produce, merely because the condition of space is denied. The ancients, and the Italians of the middle ages, seem to have considered that obedience to laws, respect for institutions, and the emotions of patriotism, are likely to be kept alive when public buildings produce the impression of which they are capable, by being duly displayed; when the poetry of the architect can affect the imagination.

"The imitative arts, applied to public purposes, require in like manner dignity of style. The term 'monumental' has been, of late years, employed to designate works in Painting and Sculpture, which are of universal or of national interest. Their sources are Religion, Patriotism, and Poetry. Their purpose is to edify, by the highest examples and the highest associations, to stimulate the love of national glory, and to minister to the pleasures of the mind.

"The variety of these general objects supposes a corresponding latitude in the artist's aim, which is at last defined by the character of that section of the public which is supposed to be addressed. The works of art which the refined citizens of Athens selected for academies and places which the learned alone were supposed to frequent, often exhibited recondite subjects from the poets; but the portico, which was the daily resort of the common people, was adorned with a painting of the Battle of Marathon.

"The edifice now in progress at Westminster, is strictly and officially called 'Her Majesty's Palace at Westminster, in which Her Parliament is wont to assemble.' It is, therefore, a Royal Palace permanently devoted to the purposes of Government and Legislation; and the circumstance of the Parliament, or Lords and Commons, meeting within its precincts, represents the combination of those elements of power with those of the Throne, which is characteristic of the English constitution.

"In the introduction of Painting and Sculpture for the decoration of such an edifice, it might therefore be presumed that the subjects should relate to this constitutional union of the powers of the State, the situation and office of the several halls proposed to be decorated suggesting the order and application of such subjects.

"The history of the Fine Arts employed as in this case, shows that it has always been considered desirable to connect a patriotic or moral object with that of mere decoration. The condition of a pleasing effect on the eye is to be considered indispensable, but the artist has, in the most approved examples, combined this with a higher gratification. The fact that on many occasions a hall or gallery permanently decorated with works of art might, like the rooms of the Vatican, serve merely as a passage, is not to be considered of weight, for the same argument would excuse incompleteness of execution and all kinds of defects. Excellence is supposed to be required, and the perfection of painting consists in more than a momentary appeal to the eye. As a guide at least to the artist, it may be assumed that it should be his aim to produce an impression on the minds of those whom he is supposed to address, and it is this principle which, it is conceived, should partly regulate the choice of subjects.

"Let it be supposed, for a moment, that Westminster Hall is to be adorned with paintings. The place, being always open to the public, might contain a selection of subjects from British History, especially such as relate to warlike achievements, the vastness of the empire, and great commercial and civil events; subjects calculated to inspire the citizen with loyalty, patriotism, and enterprise.

"The Guard-room, or ante-chamber to the Robbing-room, might present subjects relating to the

defence of the Throne, the laws, and the country; subjects exhibiting the military power employed to protect.

"In St. Stephen's Hall and the corridors adjoining, the subjects might serve to define the constitutional rights and duties, and to exhibit the acts and services of churchmen, statesmen, and warriors, in their relation to the government of the country and as loyal subjects.

"In the Robbing-room the artist might endeavour to define the power and privileges, the virtues and duties, with which the Throne is invested.

"The Victoria Gallery offers, perhaps, the fullest scope for a comprehensive design in an elevated style of art. If so adorned, the fittest theme seems to be the abstract one of Legislation; if devoted to British History, the most appropriate subjects might be the acts of the Sovereigns of England; or (in the event of Westminster Hall not being adorned with paintings) subjects relating to the extended dominion, the power and greatness of the nation.*

"There seems no reason to exclude allegory from those portions of the edifice where the spectators may be supposed to be as much interested with the display of the art itself as with the mere subject.

"What has been so often said, observes Reynolds, 'to the disadvantage of allegorical poetry,—that it is tedious and uninteresting,—cannot with the same propriety be applied to painting, where the interest is of a different kind. If allegorical painting produces a greater variety of ideal beauty, a richer, a more various and delightful composition, and gives to the artist a greater opportunity of exhibiting his skill, all the interest he wishes for is accomplished; such a picture not only attracts, but fixes the attention.'

"The various classes of subjects here suggested, have reference to the various spectators who may be supposed to contemplate them. Of this there is a high example.

"The Cartoons of Raphael, which are so often justly cited as examples for the grandest style of historic composition, are also remarkable for having been especially calculated to produce an impression in the minds of the spectators to whom they were originally addressed. The tapestries for which the Cartoons served as models were hung in the Sistine Chapel round the Presbyterium, or portion of the chapel allotted to the Dignitaries of the Church. There were assembled, during the performance of the religious rites, the Pope and the Cardinals, and the artist undertook to place before the eyes of the head of the Church, and before the eyes of those who might succeed him in his office, the history of the Apostles of Christ. It is to be remarked that other artists, including Michael Angelo, had already painted in this chapel. The walls at a certain height were adorned with works by Perugino, Signorelli, Ghirlandajo, and others, representing the histories of Moses and Christ. The ceiling was painted by Michael Angelo, with the whole scheme of the Fall and Promised Redemption of Man. But it can hardly be said that these subjects, however sublime, had any especial reference to the actual spectators, or that they were more addressed to them than to the rest of the Christian community. It was reserved for Raphael to make a more direct appeal to those whom he considered he was addressing, by subjects which at the same time followed the histories before treated in chronological order.

"The precise situation of each of the subjects of the Cartoons round the walls of the Presbyterium (before Michael Angelo's Last Judgment was painted) was first ascertained by an enlightened lover of art,—the Chevalier Bunsen.† The order of the subjects was as follows:—On the end wall, to the left of the altar, was the Calling of Peter (commonly called the Miraculous Draught of Fishes). The first subject following, on the side wall, was Christ's Charge to Peter. The next compartment was partly occupied by the Pope's Throne, and the remaining space was filled with the smaller subject of the Stoning of Stephen. Next came the subject of Peter and John healing the Lame Man at the Gate of the Temple. Last on that side was the Death of Ananias. To the right of the altar, corresponding

* At the time this was written it was not decided that there should be paintings in the House of Lords.

† Beschreibung der Stadt Rom, vol. II. part 2, p. 408.

‡ Left of a spectator facing the altar.

with the Calling of Peter, was the Conversion of Paul. The first subject following on the side wall was Elymas the Sorcerer struck with Blindness. The next subject was Paul and Barnabas at Lystra. The next Paul preaching at Athens. The remaining compartment, greatly reduced by the gallery of the choristers, was occupied by the small tapestry of Paul in Prison during the Earthquake.

"Thus the subject of the Calling of Peter (the Miraculous Draught of Fishes), was on that side of the altar nearest to the throne; again, the Charge to Peter 'Feed my sheep,' and the heroism of the first martyr, met the Pontiff's eyes when he approached his seat. The original cartoon of the Stoning of Stephen is lost; that of the Calling of the chief of the Apostles is at Hampton Court. Whoever recollects, in the cartoon, the deep humility in the expression and attitude of Peter kneeling in the boat before Christ, may now also reflect that at the distance of a few paces the 'Successor of the Apostle' contemplated this scene from the highest of earthly thrones. These associations may be easily pursued by considering the situation and import of the various subjects. The authority, the miraculous powers, the duties and the sacrifices of the church, the propagation of the faith, persecution, martyrdom,—such were the warning and inspiring themes which Raphael placed around the papal greatness.‡

"This example may suffice to show that there cannot be a safer or higher principle in the selection of subjects than that of adapting them to the spectators who may be supposed to contemplate them. It is not necessary to inquire whether a religious, a moral, or a patriotic lesson can at all times be conveyed by a painting; it is enough to assume such a possibility as a consistent ground-work for the selection required.

"But the principle of generally adapting subjects to the character of the place merely, without reference to the special inmates, would be less likely to suggest expressive and touching incidents in history, and on the other hand might exclude, without reason, the higher flights of imagination."

We shall give the remainder of Mr. Eastlake's paper, relating to Sculpture, next week.

THE DURHAM MEMORIAL TEMPLE.

BESIDES being very loosely and awkwardly worded, the description of the "Durham Monument," quoted in the *Athenæum* last week, takes no notice whatever of one or two circumstances in the design, so peculiar, that they cannot fail to establish for it the fame of decided originality. From what is there said, and still more from what is not said, it will, no doubt, be inferred that the structure will be a mere copy of a Grecian Doric temple; a great, although excusable, mistake. Were it not so, we should be puzzled to perceive the propriety of erecting a pagan fane in honour of an English statesman. The compliment, at the best, would have been equivocal. But although the building looks, at first sight, like a veritable Greek temple, the architect has contrived it so ingeniously, that it soon shows itself to be the mere semblance of one, and well deserving the character which has been given it for its "imposing" effect. Yet even the writer of the description referred to—liberal as he is of commendation—has not expressly noticed what is by far the most striking and original idea in the whole design.

By way of convincing us how classical a piece of architecture the "Durham Memorial Temple" must be, the writer describes it as "Tetrastyle, Hypæthral, and also Peristyle;" nor are those terms incorrectly applied, notwithstanding that there seems to be some error in regard to one of them. In fact, suspicion of mistake as to the first must inevitably be entertained by those who understand the arrangement of plans so expressed, since greatly perplexed must they be to comprehend how a tetrastyle building (i. e. one with only four columns in front, therefore only three intercolumns in breadth) can be also peristyle, or have a colonnaded walk continued around it. Most certainly there is no instance of the kind among the temples of antiquity; and that for reason sufficiently cogent and plain—it being impossible, where the breadth of the edifice does not exceed three intercolumns, to allow two of them for colonnades along its sides, as

§ See 'Kugler's Hand-Book to the History of Painting,' vol. I. p. 317.

only one would remain for the width of *cella* or interior of the temple. It will accordingly be conjectured, that either "hexastyle" was meant instead of "tetrastyle," or that this Durham "Temple" is not a genuine "peristyle" after all—at the best a "pseudo-peristyle," having the columns on its flanks "engaged" in the walls of its *cella*. Still, neither the one nor the other is the case: the architect has cut the Gordian knot, by omitting the *cella*, and of course inner walls behind the columns, altogether! So far the puzzle is explained; but then another, hardly less formidable, remains, it being exceedingly difficult to comprehend what occasion there could be for making a temple which is open on every side, *hypæthral*, or open to the sky, also. Not only is there no inner space requiring to be so lighted from above, but the contriving such opening in the roof of the building must, it will be thought, have been attended with considerable difficulty. As there are no inner walls, the probable conjecture will be, that there must at least be inner columns, whereby the plan is divided into three aisles, of which only the side ones are covered in, the other being left unroofed. Not so, however; the architect again cuts another Gordian knot, and this time, by a veritable *coup de maître*, takes off the roof of the building altogether: so that it is not only hypæthral, but hypæthral *in issino*—and after the most extraordinary fashion. Why, having thus got rid of a roof, and thereby converted his structure into a mere platform inclosed within columns, he should have retained the pediments at the end of his building, he best knows; that being a point which I cannot pretend to explain. If there is to be no roof, the "magnificent" pediments, which plainly indicate the intention of one, become, in this particular case, absurdities and contradictions,—"*imposing*," no doubt,—gross impositions, the effect of which will be, that the building will look as if there had originally been a roof to it, which had fallen in!

Possibly it was at first intended that there should be a roof, but in order to save expense, it was afterwards thought that such covering might be dispensed with; yet, if so, the architect unluckily failed to notice, that the pediments might be dispensed with also; more particularly as economy is to be so scrupulously consulted. It is actually made a boast, that this monumental edifice will be little better than a falsification as to solidity and massiveness, "all the walls in the foundations, as also the walls of the massive entablatures, and all the columns being made 'hollow'!" The whole then becomes nearly as much a sham, as if it were composed of cast iron coloured in imitation of stone, and made to present to the eye the semblance of the ponderous construction of the Grecian Doric style. In a case like the present, such imitation becomes no better than mimicry and mockery: the forms and proportions here belie, if not the material itself, the mode of construction. Had the original edifices been built with hollow foundation walls, hollow columns, and hollow entablatures, the probability is, that they would long ago have disappeared altogether, and that we should have had nothing of the kind to imitate. Even supposing that the "ingenious" mode of construction resorted to on this occasion may answer the purpose,—that the using "the smallest possible quantity of material," may prove "compatible with the most perfect stability," and so far be creditable to modern skill, it says very little indeed for modern art. Rather does it force upon us the humiliating truth, that however altered may be now the means, the methods, and the materials with which architecture works, it knows not how to employ them consistently with the altered conditions of artistic design so occasioned.

Possibly there may be some profound and ingenious meaning concealed within this hollow architecture: it may be intended as characteristic of the age—of an age which estimates plausible appearances above solid worth. Whether he purposed that his columns should be significant after such fashion or not, the architect makes use of one of them for a more practical purpose, by putting a staircase within it, for the accommodation, it is to be presumed, of the "rising generation,"—hardly for adults, since the upper diameter of the column will hardly exceed five feet, and of course the hollow must be considerably less, therefore the stairs so narrow, and the revolutions of them so many, that to ascend them will be a feat of some difficulty, if not of danger. Yet such is the

only access provided for reaching the upper promenades; which said promenades will be merely the blocking course over the entablature, consequently about six feet in width; whence it may be taken for granted, that the blocking course itself is hollowed out, so as to leave two parapets, between which the visitors are to walk.

After all, no mention whatever is made of a statue or anything else, commemorating the individual in honour of whom this monumental "temple" is raised! It will be curious indeed, should that have been overlooked in framing the design; or even should such not be the case, it is still curious, that the descriptions should make no mention of anything of the kind, for although it may not yet be definitely settled what it is to be, something must surely be intended, and have been provided for by the architect accordingly.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences.—Sept. 2.—M. Arago made a report of a work by M. Duperrey on the variations of magnetic intensity in different parts of the globe.—A letter was read from the Abbé Vico, director of the Observatory of Rome, stating that he discovered on the 22nd of August a new comet, whose movement was towards the north.—A paper was received from M. Aymé, on the temperature of the Mediterranean Sea. The author made a series of experiments in the vicinity of Algiers—one of the most curious results is the fact that, contrary to what has been observed of the Ocean, the temperature of the Mediterranean is higher near the coast than in the open sea. He also ascertained that, at a depth of eighteen metres, the diurnal temperature does not vary, and that the mean temperature of the year is the same as that of the air.—M. Le Saulnier de Vanhello, a naval captain, laid before the Academy some charts of the coast of France and the Channel, and an account of some experiments as to the depth between Calais and Dover. It does not at any part exceed 200 feet. M. Arago took this opportunity of alluding to the boring for the artesian well at Calais, which has now reached a depth of 322 metres. The water to be supplied by this well will, he says, come from England.

The annual sitting of the French Academy, for the distribution of the prizes in its award, was held on the 29th ult., when the prize of Eloquence proposed by the Academy itself,—the subject of which on the present occasion was a *Discours sur Voltaire*, was awarded to M. Harel,—known, hitherto, in the literary world only as the author of some dramatic attempts. This discourse was highly spoken of by M. Villemain, who reported on the prizes; and is still more highly praised in other and very competent quarters. The first of the historical prizes was continued to M. Augustin Thierry (who already held it, for his *Récit des Temps Mérovingiens*—and the second was also confirmed to its present possessor, M. Bazin, for his *Histoire de France sous Louis XIII.* The great Monthyon prize of 6,000 fr. was given to the père Grégoire Girard, a Franciscan monk of Friburg, for his work entitled *De l'Enseignement régulier de la langue maternelle*; and prizes were awarded of 3,000 fr. to M. Egron for his *Livre de l'Ouvrier*; 2,000 fr. to M. Halévy for his *Recueil de Fables*; and 2,000 fr. to M. Vander-Burch for his *Carriole d'Osier*. Other minor literary prizes were distributed, and the Monthyon prizes of Virtue we do not report. In our opinion, though unquestionably reflecting on their author the honour of the highest intentions, they are objectionable in principle. Virtue is made, in their ordination, far too theatrical a matter, and taught to look for her rewards in the wrong direction. A trade exposition, with its medals and prizes, is a useful institution, proposing such stimulants as are appropriate to the subjects with which it deals. Operatives labour, and manufacturers invent, for the express sake of the temporal benefices which they can earn; but an annual exhibition of the virtues, competing for honorary rewards, would be one of the most offensive and demoralizing things possible. It is not that some of the cases, in particular, which the Academy has crowned, are not well deserving of such rewards and encouragements as governments or individuals have to bestow—nor that the example of such encouragement is without its uses. But our objection is to the institution of such rewards as motives to the

practice of the virtues. The virtue which has no better foundation changes its character at once, and will gradually degenerate till the community suffer seriously by the mixed sense and low standard of morality introduced. The society that cultivates its virtues for a price is not far enough removed, for safety, from the community that takes the price of its shame. The common motive is a dangerous approximation; and it will be found, in the end, that circumstance will decide too often on the direction in which the reward, so made common, shall be sought. It may be well to honour David Lacroix, who has saved 117 lives, and reward Pierre Thian, who has lost the power to labour in rescuing persons from the Tarn and the Gironde. These are exceptional cases; and cases in which pecuniary assistance was directly needed and had been nobly earned. But the Academy should not be called on to crown a man for being honest, or a woman for being chaste. That must be a sickly state of society, in which such qualities merit crowns. To parade virtues like these is to degrade them at the time, and endanger them afterwards; and some curious examples have been mentioned, in which the act of crowning by the Academy has led to the immediate tarnishing of the crown which it had conferred. The virtue, which had simplicity for its character and privacy for its fitting element, dragged into a stage-light, and covered with tinsel, forgot its quality, and was not strong enough to resist the seduction to which it had been exposed by the very fact of its exhibition "in the Capitol." In all cases, even where the reward is legitimate, the theatrical exhibition were best avoided. The material reward should be considered but subsidiary honour, whereas the parade and circumstance with which it is bestowed put it in the first place. If it be proposed to answer us with an allusion to the prizes given by bodies like our Royal Humane Society, we say they are not cases in point. The Royal Humane Society is an institution, having an economic object, and working with such materials as it can find. Its purpose is, not to blazon virtue, but to save life; and it addresses itself to such mixed motives as are known to exist and likely to help it in carrying its useful object. Its meanings are positive, and the services it pays prescribed; and, in giving its own testimonial it makes no pretension to place an academic crown (in France it may be almost called a national one) on the head of some hardy mariner or village-girl, summoned up to play the part of *Peasant-Virtue*, in a masque performed before the loungers of the metropolis.

Bridge of Warsaw.—The progress of the great bridge over the Vistula, which has been retarded from the deficiency of funds, has received an accelerated movement, owing to a very curious circumstance, which, in the days of superstition, must have conferred a character of great sanctity on the work; the Saints themselves have provided the needful. In proceeding to the demolition of a small and very ancient Catholic chapel, to clear the approach on the Warsaw side, two barrels filled with bars of fine gold have been discovered. The value is estimated at a million and a half of florins (upwards of £150,000 sterling), and the whole has been appropriated to the completion of the bridge.

M. de Savigny, Member of the Academy of Sciences, who made part of the expedition into Egypt, and was one of the authors of the work destined to perpetuate its memory and results, has transmitted his copy of this work to his native town of Provins. The gift was accompanied by a letter, in which he traces the distressing incidents of his life, and gives many curious particulars of the progress and symptoms of a terrible disease which made sudden and irremediable shipwreck of his hopes and his fame. This disease is known to the French physicians by the name of *Névrose*, and is, in fact, a preternaturally excited condition of the nervous system. It is of very rare occurrence, and there is something so remarkable in the details, narrated by a man of learning and genius, who has had the courage to make a study of his own pangs, and find a consolation for his long misery in his philosophical observation, that we are tempted to give some extracts from the letter which records them. In that journal of his sensations, which he speaks of having kept for the sake of science, what pictures must there be! recalling the wild visions of the "English Opium Eater":—"On the 4th of August, 1817," says M. de

Savigny, "I was suddenly seized, more especially in the organ of vision, with a nervous affection, which compelled an immediate suspension of labour, and a retirement into the country. This affection, which, according to the physicians, was to yield to a repose of five or six months, extended far beyond that limit of time; until, weary of an inaction to me so unnatural, I now and then suffered myself to indulge in studies, the opportunities for which the country had multiplied around me. At length I set out for Italy, hoping to accelerate my cure by travel. This excursion I prolonged till the end of 1822, at which period obligations the most imperious demanded my presence in Paris. Thither, then, I returned, and shortly afterwards resumed my labours. I did so too soon: symptoms of the most disquieting nature were not long in manifesting themselves; I foresaw a relapse, and predicted it, but there were no outward appearances to justify my apprehension: I was not believed, and I submitted. Time passed away, in the midst of continued anxieties, and on the 20th of March, 1824, the so much dreaded relapse suddenly declared itself, in the form of a nervous affection, a thousand times worse than the last, and whose progress nothing could arrest. This renewed affection had, like the previous one, its principal seat in the organ of vision. It did not induce blindness, in the strict acceptation of the word, but it rendered my eyes gradually incapable of enduring the light; and athwart the daily increased darkness to which it compelled me, it showed a crowd of brightly-coloured images, whose successive emissions, infinitely produced, wearied and haunted me incessantly. To these early apparitions were soon added others. Crowding phenomena—impetuous, luminous, burning, vast—filled, day and night, all space around me, in a thousand different aspects, and provoked curses the most intense and agonizing. Other phenomena, again, distinguished from these last less by their forms and colours than by their influence of terror, came periodically to aggravate the sufferings. To the sensations proper to vision were added a fetid odour, sharp hisses, strange sounds—harmonious or discordant, human voices singing, talking, declaiming, and many other utterances as wild. Sleep rarely suspended these hateful illusions without producing at my re-awakening visions threatening, grotesque, incomprehensible. One of the most frequent of these was the upper vault filled with myriad human faces, all equally expressive, wearing an unspeakable look of inflexible sternness, and looking down on me with ominous gaze. * * The physicians consulted, in 1824, as to the probable duration of my malady, had generally limited its operation to a period of two or three years. This time, also, the least favourable of these anticipations were cruelly overstepped. Year followed upon year, bringing never more than some scarcely perceptible diminution, reached always through torments inexpressible, and leaving me in my solitude no other possible solace for my misery than the study and daily description of those torments themselves—an unparalleled journal, and perhaps an idle one, but which I have constantly kept, braving a thousand agonies, in the hope that it may some day lead to an understanding of the causes for tortures so fearful."

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By order of the London Committee.

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London, Sept. 13, 1844.

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